



# Lazy Dungeon Master



Volume 16 – Preparations for  
the Third Dungeon Battle

# Lazy Dungeon Master

**Volume Sixteen - Preparations for the Third Dungeon Battle**

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# Chapter 159 - Haku-san's Imperial Villa

When I passed through the gate, it was a warehouse.

There was armor, spears, swords and the like all decorating the walls. There's a shelf with a wooden box filled with swords and shields thrown away like junk.

... Even those swords in the box all look high quality with gems embedded in them though.

Rokuko and Haku-san, who'd went through the gate before me, were waiting.

Meat, who I'd picked up, was holding on to my clothes. It looked like bringing her along worked.

"Just in case, I connected the gate to my hobby room... my warehouse. Unfortunately, I can't lend any of the things here nor DP this time."

So this is her hobby room... so that means the stuff in those boxes are like her collection or something? ... Are these all magic swords? Huh. So Haku-san's hobby is collecting magic swords.

Are these all handmade? Setting aside borrowing one, I'd definitely love to watch at least once.

"Ooh, I remember this lance. This is the one that put up the Fire Wall when we had the dungeon battle isn't it, Haku Ane-sama!?"

"Ugu—! ... Y-yes, it is."

Rokuko casually ripped open an old wound. Harsh.

"... I've prepared a temporary room for you to stay, this way."

Lead by Haku-san, who was smiling bitterly, we walked to the villa. It was mostly white, just like a temple. I wonder if she's worshiped?

"Here it is, Rokuko-chan."

"Oooh... so big!"

It's just about the same size as the suite in our inn. Furnished with a canopy, there was a queen-size white bed. Must be nice... I want one. There's a see-

through curtain going around it... is that called a veil?

Are the pillows, mattress, and covers all made from down? It's all puffy and looks so soft. I want to dive into it. And then sleep.

Other than the bed? Ah yeah, it all looks high spec. I don't know for sure, but I think the lighting's all taken care of by magic tools. Ah, there's the massage chair we sold her.

But yeah, as expected of the room prepared by Haku-san, it's obvious at a glance that it's a high-end futon. Just looking at it makes me feel tired!

"Ah, Kehma-san and that slave's is over here."

Eh, I was ushered into a small dull room a short distance away.

Whoosh. A tasteless four tatami mat room. It feels like a room you'd use as a storeroom for luggage.

There isn't even a single futon. There aren't any pillows either. It reminds me of the time I first came to this world.

"W-wait, Haku Ane-sama, this treatment is really..."

"Oh? Kehma-san won't work if he sleeps though?"

"... No—u-umm, d-did I say something like that?"

Rokuko had a look on that looked like, "Ah, come to think of it I did say something like that before huh~".

Huh. So this is your fault, Rokuko.

Well, even without that I didn't expect to be treated the same as Rokuko in the slightest.

"Hey, e-even so, a futon would be..."

"In that case isn't it alright if he returns to the dungeon every day?"

Right, that's very Haku-san-like. She just wants me to go back so she can keep Rokuko here. That's alright though. I don't mind. Should I fake it a bit?

"... Well, it's a good enough room for just being lent to me, yep."

"Ah, do you want to come to our room? The bed is big enough for three people to sleep in."

"Oh, sorry, Rokuko-chan. That bed is for dungeon cores only."

"Really!? Uu, there's no helping it then..."

Rokuko, you know that's a lie right? Dungeon cores only? Isn't that nothing

but Haku-san just wanting to sleep with you?”

“Enough about rooms, where should I make the dungeon?”

“I am glad that you’re so motivated. Let’s go to the conference room then. I’ve prepared a map.”

This time we headed to the conference room.

It was another white room, but in its center, it had a three-dimensional map... of the entire empire. And the neighboring countries... As well as a matching map for the Demon King’s territory.

“... What an elaborate map. It feels like it shows so much more than I’ve ever seen.”

“Yes. This map is an important strategic intelligence resource. After all, it’s formed from knowledge brought back from previous heroes, as well as harpies directly documenting from the skies.”

Another world’s knowledge is nothing to joke about, it’s serious stuff. Thinking that, I took another look over the map.

Tsuia Mountain and our dungeon in it is inside of the empire’s territory. Calculating backwards using the size of the mountain... yup, it’s huge. Just how many Hokkaido’s would fit in it? [1]

Moreover, there are dozens of other dungeon locations recorded on the map. There are a lot around the area by the capital, are they all Haku-san’s dungeons?

“And so, how about making the dungeon here? There are many geographical features, so you could utilize various things... Moreover, it is nearby a monster village.”

Hmm? Using a monster village is alright with the rules for this?

I was wondering about it, but Haku-san smiled. Looks like it’s alright.

“It looks like it’d be better to actually check out the spots and narrow down the candidates.”

“Yes, for now, I recommend this mountain. With a mountain, you could use all of the techniques that you all have been using thus far, correct?”

Looking at the spot that Haku-san pointed to as she said that, it was located a little ways away from the capital.

A mountain not far off from the Demon King's territory... Ah, so a dungeon to keep that in check huh?

I wonder if she's intending to use it as a lookout after this? Rather, I wonder what'll happen to the dungeons that get made for this.

"Ah, for the dungeons made for this Dungeon Battle, the winning junior will receive theirs, while the losers' will be given to their seniors. So don't worry about that and do your best, alright?"

If we lose, she can use it as a lookout dungeon, so it's OK. If we win, we'll be the ones to use it as a lookout, so that's OK too. In other words, Haku-san profits either way.

"Heeey, Haku Ane-sama. You know what Kehma's thinking even without him saying anything?"

"Yes, I can tell from looking at his face. It is because I am used to negotiating with people."

"I wonder if I can do that too if I work hard? I want to know what Keima thinks about."

"... Rokuko-chan doesn't need a skill like that, though?"

"Hmm."

Rokuko thought.

"In other words, even without having the skill, being one body and soul with Keima... my thoughts are Keima's thoughts!?" [2]

"I haven't been able to read Rokuko-chan's thoughts in a certain meaning recently..."

"Fufufu, that's because I'm growing up!"

Rokuko stuck her nose up with a triumphant look. Yep, some things never change.

Haku-san nodded with a relieved look.

"So Kehma, isn't this area here alright? It's the place that Haku Ane-sama recommended."

"Well, hold on. There are other candidates. It'll influence what kind of dungeon we make."

Like that, narrowing down the number of candidates, we decided to inspect

the spots in person starting tomorrow.

... It's troublesome, but there's no helping it. I don't want to lose.

By the way, Meat and I returned to the dungeon after that and Rokuko decided to stay the night there.



# Chapter 160 - Touring the Imperial Capital 1

On the second day since Haku-san's villa was connected with the gate, I decided to take a tour through the capital.

The first candidate for being our dungeon is [Inside the Imperial Capital]. If I had to have a reason why, I'd say there were a few, but the number one reason was that if it was still our dungeon after the Dungeon Battle, we'd be able to go to the imperial capital immediately through [Deployment].

Eh? A reason why that's an advantage for Dungeon Battle? Maybe I could call some local adventurers over on the day of the Dungeon Battle to defend it. It's not something we couldn't do at another place though. And now we've went in a circle, but well, to be blunt, there's nothing else to do here. Ah, that's my official reason at least.

The real reason is that I wanted to take a look around.

Haku-san's base, the mecca of adventurers, the imperial capital. Developed as the capital of a large country, there are a lot of people. Even the street I'm going down right now is within the range of the dungeon, and there's so many people in sight... not only are there a ton of people here, all of them are the sources that produce Haku-san's DP. There aren't any disadvantages to it for simple sightseeing or like with the final evolution of our village. My aspirations aren't this high though.

"There's so many people, Haku Ane-sama! This is the first time I've seen so many humans."

"Fufufu, this is a daily thing."

Incidentally, Haku-san is accompanying us for the preliminary inspection. However, it would've been a pretty big issue if she just walked around, so she's walking around in her DP-saving form... her loli mode. Rokuko wasn't the only one to have a variable age feature. She looks like the just-barely-older sister to the loli Rokuko. Something like a mature young girl. Since Haku-san (small) was like that and was still being called [Ane-sama], Rokuko was obviously in her small form as well.

Ah, Meat's with us too.

... Let's name this formation the Loli Triangle. Well, it's not like I'm actually going to name it though.

"... Ah, Kehma-san—Onii-chan... should I call you that?"

"No, please continue as you always have."

"Hmm. Well then, is there some place you want to go? There are no places in the capital that I don't know about."

Looking over her shoulders while leading the way, Haku-san spoke with an innocent-looking smile.

The emphasis feels a bit different coming from the person who controls this capital both in name and in reality.

"Let's see, I'd like to check out a few shops, as well as the adventurer guild... right, I'd like to take a look at an underground arena too."

"Oh? An underground arena... fufu, that is something for night. Well, shall I guide you to the commercial district first?"

\*

Haku-san lead us to the commercial area. There were shops selling vegetables, fruit, clothes, as well as shops selling clothes and decorations. There were even butchers and fish dealers. Which reminds me, this place is pretty close to the sea. It's even more prosperous than Sia.

I didn't see any shops that sold weapons or armor. Maybe they're sold in another district?

"This is the main street of the commercial district. There are some ornamental-type armor sold here, but arms are mostly sold on the adventurer street. This place also sells convenient magic tools for things like illumination."

Looks like that's how it is. Haku-san immediately took hold of Rokuko and brought her into the clothes shop. It looks like a shop mainly for high spec stuff, like for royal purveyance, and also appears to know about her incognito loli mode. Maybe it'd better if I said it's a shop for when she wants to drop in incognito?

... She's definitely shopping. I'll follow them in for now.

“There are a lot of designs, like ones brought by heroes as ones coming from clothing-type items from the dungeon. Like this bunny outfit, or this white angel outfit.”

“Aren’t those just a bunny suit and a nurse outfit...? Those past heroes...”

There was also a policewoman outfit, a maid outfit, and a school swimsuit. It looks like they somehow made them with this world’s materials, but they’re reproduced very nicely. There are even male-use outfits here too, I can feel a deep sense of commitment in them... One of the past heroes was probably a cosplayer.

“The price... yep, ten gold. As expected, clothes are expensive...”

“This is an ultra high class shop after all. Now, Rokuko-chan, shall we change?”

“Y-yes!”

She said that, but one of the things in Haku-san’s hands was the bunny suit from before. There was even a bikini armor. Are you sure about that, Rokuko?

“Meat—err, Kuro, is there anything you want?”

“Ummm... I-I want to look at the clothes over there.”

Saying that, Meat pointed at the undergarment corner.

... This is such a high difficulty level.

Rokuko was changed into various different outfits, but she ended up in a safe dress.

By the way, it was cheaper to buy things with DP and they’d even have a good quality, so I didn’t buy anything, but Haku-san bought a lot. On her tab.

She’d even expressly had the castle pick up the tab, so it looks like gives this shop preferential treatment. That is, people nearby would know that the shop deals with the castle. So there’s something like that huh, troublesome.

“It’s the obligation of those who stand at the top to disperse money into the economy. Ah, I’ll give this to Rokuko-chan as a present after the Dungeon Battle finishes.”

“Yes! Thank you so much, Haku Ane-sama!”

The clothing they bought was great, but is temporary clothing alright?

“How about we go to the magic tool shop next?”

There were various tools placed here and there in the magic tool shop. There were magic tools that emitted fire, that gave water, as well as those that shed light. They look like they're pretty popular and sell well. I'm told they're also sold in the adventurer street's shops.

There's an instrument magic tool that looks like a keyboard harmonica as well as a magic tool meant for cooking that peels off potato skins. I don't see why it needs to be a magic tool, but there's a fountain pen magic tool... huh? It automatically refills its ink? So it doesn't run out of ink huh? Heeeh, that's amazing.

In particular, I was surprised that magic tools like ones that could manufacture paper were being sold to the general public.

"This [Papermaker-kun] is a magic tool that a previous hero invented. When you put fine bits of wood into it and turn it on, it turns it into paper. This [Permanent Fountain Pen-kun] is bought by a lot of merchants together with it."

It looks like [XX-kun] is the series naming convention for magic tools made by heroes. Taking a closer look, there are a lot of magic tools with [XX-kun] names.

"I do think that something that makes paper is an important tool, but is it alright to just sell it?"

"There's no helping it as it was the inventor's wishes. It can only be repaired in the imperial capital if it is broken though."

By the way, I'm told that it's only able to make a single sheet of A3-sized paper every few hours, with the purchases being recorded in a name register for maintenance and after-sales services.

While I was taking a look at those sorts of production-type magic tools, Rokuko came over holding a pan in her hand.

"Kehma, isn't this [No Wood Pan] amazing? It gets hot automatically!"

"Like a hot plate? Can you adjust the temperature?"

"It doesn't look like you can."

"Oh, [Heating Pan-kun] can adjust its temperature and doesn't need wood either. Low, medium, and hot... it's a popular item for both adventurers and

cooks.”

The one that couldn’t adjust its temperature was five silver coins, while the one that could was five gold. For just being able to change the temperature to give this much difference...

“Right. The same with [Papermaker-kun], they can only be made by the [Hero Studio]... Besides, the cheap ones are fragile.”

So they’re like brand name goods huh.

And if they’re too cheap they might even ignite inside your satchel... basically, by making inferior goods from a no-name brand, they make it seem like the better choice to pay for the brand’s name by raising its relative value.

It’s something you could appeal to sue shops with in Japan, but it looks like all of the goods other than the brand name ones in this city are non-warranty junk items that you have to be responsible for yourself. They’re doing quite well.

Ah. Were they made by Haku-san?

# Chapter 161 - Touring the Imperial Capital 2

I ended up buying a [Permanent Fountain Pen] from the magic tools shop and put it in my [Storage].

Let's have Nerune look into whether or not we can make something similar when I get back to the dungeon.

I looked at various shops after that while wandering around.

"Next is... hmm, shall we go to the Adventurer Guild? The commission rush should have settled down by now."

With Haku-san guiding us once again, we went from the commercial area to the adventurer street.

There was a huge stone building with a very large signboard—the Adventurer Guild's headquarters. It had storehouses and disassembly places next to it.

Comparing it to the Adventurer Guild in Sia... it'd be like comparing an estate to a hut, to say nothing of the doghouse branch office at our dungeon.

When we grandly walked in through the entrance, I saw that the office with cafe addition was styled and furnished with refinement. There are some adventurers that have been drinking since the morning spoiling the cafe portion's view though.

"Oh, such cute children... haven't seen them before. And a sleepy looking Nii-chan huh?"

"Hoh, aren't they gonna be some beauties later on?"

Adventurers that were nearby walked over to us.

Thinking they might be picking a fight, I got ready... Um, Haku-san, why are you hiding behind me and grinning? Rokuko, what's with that [I don't care!]-like expression? Meat, please put your knife away. Alright, keeping your hands on the handle is OK.

"Hey, boy. This is the Adventurer Guild."

A noticeably rough leader-like man spoke.

... I have the golem assist, but I don't think I'd win. What to do...?

While I was troubled over what to do, he put his hand on my shoulder with a clap.

“Relax. As their senior, you gotta protect those Ojou-chans. Here, I’ll give you some candy. There’s some for all of you.”

“I-it’s here—! Tokoi aniki’s candy—! The tasty honey candy that’s a hit in the mercenary group!”

“The killer technique for aniki who loves children even though they’re afraid of him, the candy! As expected of aniki, who donates most of his own earnings to orphanages~!”

“He’s even gotten used to kids being on guard ’cause of his scary face scaring~! We’ve seen kids cry from him approaching them with a smile at least a hundred times now yeah~!?”

“Oi, Kalbi, Harami, Rose, shaddup.”

Somehow or another, this guy is an extremely nice person. I accepted the bag with four candies in it that he held out.

“Umm.”

“... My bad, did I scare you? Ah, I-I’m no one suspicious! I’m a B-Rank adventurer, my name’s pretty well known too. You can ask the guild’s staff if you want.”

“Ah, yeah... then, just to be safe.”

When I asked a staff member to make sure, it looked like all of the things that the three others said were true. Even though the B-Rank adventurer’s face is scary, he loves children and is the leader of a mercenary group.

My nervousness went away.

“You... didn’t even hesitate asking the staff... no, it’s alright. It’s our first time meeting, so making sure was the right way to go. Fufu, it’s alright, it’s all good... you were just being a good guardian to protect the children, right? Hahaha. If you get in any trouble just ask.”

With a voice that sounded like he was about to cry, the rough man and his group left.

“... Just who was that?”

“A famous adventurer of a certain kind that has become this guild’s specialty.

One of the [Useful] pawns this time. That you could meet him was fortunate... Ah, in the event you use him, please do the negotiations yourself.”

When I asked Haku-san, that’s how she responded.

... I see. So Haku-san also thought of the [Call adventurers in to fight on the day of the event] strategy huh. Well, a mercenary group would act for money, too. Setting aside whether or not I use them, let’s remember that.

“Now then... how about I introduce you to the Guild Head here? Follow me.”

“Wait, the Guild Head... isn’t that Haku-san?”

“I am the Grand Master. I usually leave everything to my subordinates.”

Saying that, she headed behind the counter. Not even being stopped by the staff, she went to the Guild Head’s office. Haku-san knocked lightly on the door and waited.

However, there was no response even after waiting a while, so Haku-san calmly opened the office’s door.

“Supyaa... supii... nyaa fufufu...”

Inside the Guild Head’s room, there was a pink-cateared girl sleeping on the desk.

... The soft sunlight and warm interior of this office would be great to sleep in. I want to sleep too.

Wait, surely she’s not the Guild Head?

Haku-san abruptly took out a wooden mallet and swung it downward at the sleeping cateared girl’s head.

Godun.

With a dull sound coming from the painful-looking collision, the girl jumped up.

... Hitting someone when they’re sleeping so peacefully? How savage.

“Pikya!? W-what—a-an enemy!? Ah, Haku-sama!”

“Good morning, Misha. How is work?”

“Ah! There are no problems whatsoever! There was a quarrel but it was no problem!”

Even though she was giving a proper salute, there were traces of saliva near her mouth and there was a puddle of it on the desk.



“Rokuko-chan, Kehma-san. As this is the first time you’ll have met her, I will introduce her. This Misha, a werecat. She is one of my party members and is also a dungeon monster.”

“I’m Misha! I pass as a cat beastkin in the guild but I’m a werecat!”

“What a lively cat! I’m Rokuko!”

“Kehma. Pleased to meet you?”

She looked like a cute girl with cat ears and a tail.

How exactly are cat beastkin and werecats different?

“I’m taking a human form right now. My arms would be covered with hair all the way down to my elbows if I turned back you know? I’m super soft and fluffy.”

Ah, so she can do that.

Soft and fluffy, huh.

Even so, there should be a magic stone somewhere on her body since she’s a demon, shouldn’t there?

“Even though she looks like this, Misha is still an active A-Rank adventurer, so even just keeping her here is effective. She even has fighting strength... I can’t entrust many other duties to her though.”

So those were the circumstances... right person right place really is important.

“Hey! Look here, I’m useful! No matter what, I was able to solve that [Easy] question that Haku-sama had so much trouble with on my first try!”

“...”

“Ow!? Haku-sama, don’t pinch meeeee!”

Ah, that riddle from the first Dungeon Battle huh. “The answer of this problem is [Easy],” in other words, a problem that a smart person would get stuck on... so this girl solved it huh.

It was a problem meant to be easily solvable so long as you didn’t think about it... yep, I’m convinced.

“... As you fell asleep on the job, I’ll punish you later.”

“Hiii!? I-I’m sorryyy!”

# Chapter 162 - Touring the Imperial Capital 3

Leaving the Adventurer Guild, we ate lunch at a fancy restaurant. I couldn't taste the meal that well from the mental strain, but it was probably more delicious than our inn's food. I definitely want to bring Kinue-san here and have her steal the flavor.

However, I was tired after the meal so I took a nap in a park. The sightseeing can wait till later... Well, Rokuko and Haku-san both left to buy evening party dresses, so I'm just sleeping during the meanwhile. Why didn't they buy it at the clothing shop from earlier? It's a different kind of store. That one was a clothes shop for daily-type outfits, different from the tailor-made evening party dresses. It's like the difference between buying casual wear and a suit. Rather, that bunny suit is casual?

... Well, it seems that I slept for around five hours, but Haku-san and Rokuko returned about the same time I woke up. It was evening.

"Un, I knew that Kehma would be sleeping."

"Eh, he was seriously sleeping? The entire time? Surely he was thinking about what to do."

"No, Haku Ane-sama... Kehma is a man that sleeps when he sleeps!!" [1]

By the way, Meat stood guard the whole time I was sleeping on the bench. I said to do whatever, but are you sure you wanted to do that? I probably should've given her a silver coin for pocket money to use how she wanted along with that though.

\*

And then it was night. Finally time for the underground colosseum. People would enjoy watching monsters and gladiators fight in the arena. There were various rules and regulations, but the most popular was, as expected, the [Anything Goes Deathmatch].

Once we'd temporarily returned to the villa, we rode on a carriage towards the underground arena.

Taking the chance, Haku-san had returned to her usual adult form. However,

she wore a white mask that hid her eyes.

It was a plain one-colored mask, but there were three blue jewels under the left eye that looked like shooting stars. How tasteful.

“... Why are you in your original form?”

“Oh, do you not want to watch from the special seating? It’s more convenient there. Here, Rokuko-chan’s mask. Kehma doesn’t need anything.”

“Wooow, thank you!”

Hold up, an appearance that hides your social position? And you didn’t even talk about Meat at all. Well, neither Meat nor I have one to hide though.

“... Just in case, wouldn’t it be weird if Meat and I didn’t have them?”

“Oh well. Alright, here.”

Rokuko’s had two gems, but mine and Meat’s didn’t even have a single one. It feels like it was definitely intentional, like something that shows off your status even while going incognito.

“You’ll be my company for now, so please try to not do anything embarrassing, alright?”

“Yeah, I’ll be careful.”

“By the way, if you don’t wear a mask, it means that you’ll be a gladiator. I wanted to see how well Kehma-san could fight but, but oh well.”

“... Hahaha. So a mask without jewels means servant?”

“Fufufu.”

So it meant that after all? Dangerous.

The carriage went into a tunnel, continuing underground. Just when I thought that, the field of view suddenly opened up a bit and I saw a splendid colosseum. While I was thinking about stuff like underground construction and how the technology to build it would be amazing, I realized that a dungeon could make it all in one go. I’m also building it in a dungeon.

When we entered the colosseum being guided forward together with Haku-san, there were seats reserved for nobles with a great view.

The chairs were only for Haku-san and Rokuko, but well, this is good enough.

The arena grounds was entirely a dirt field.

It looks like the current fight going on is between monsters, a huge boar named

[Big Boar] that walks on four jumbo legs and a bipedal human-type cow called a [Minotaur]. They're fighting showily. The minotaur stopped the big boar's rush by grabbing onto its fangs. It was a masterpiece when, even while it was leaving grooves in the ground by the force of the charge, it threw the beast sideways using its muscular strength.

[Now, which will be the loser to show up as tomorrow dinner~!?!]

The commentary said something good. I'm not Ichika, but I'm getting hungry from it.

Ah, come to think of it, I haven't eaten dinner huh.

"Isn't it quite strong?"

"Yeah, Haku Ane-sama. How to say it... the sound, I mean, the impact was amazing."

Bangs resounded each time the two monsters collided, causing the air to tremble.

"Bumoooooooooh!"

Eventually, the minotaur, which had managed to tip over the big boar, took a mounted position over it and bashed it on its soft underside, letting out a roar.

"By the way, the losers really do become ingredients for the restaurant. That's why this combination is relatively popular. Incidentally, they are also cheap in DP."

"Ah, so it was a monster summoned by DP after all."

"Yes. Dolche... even if I say that, you wouldn't know her. Same as Misha, she is my party member. I leave this stadium to her. She's passing off as a top-class tamer."

Being able to summon a monster that follows your every command from the start would indeed make her look like a top-class tamer.

[Now that everyone's riled up, our next contender is—eh, one sec. Are you sure? Eh, seriously? The OK came from above? ... Er, oh, sorry about that everyone. Ahem—Well then, I'll now introduce our next contender!]

It looks like the presenter was having a bit of trouble there, is there something off about the next one?

My question was solved immediately.

[Jumping into today's fights, from the Adventurer Guild, Guild Head Mishaaaa! We'll finally see the strength of the cat beastkin that heads the Adventurer Guild's headquarters! She looks like a young girl at first sight, but her intellect as well as the true age of this drowsy woman is unknown! However, her strength is guaranteed as an elite grappler! The destructive force of an A-Rank adventurer isn't for nothing, her fist can even smash through adamantite! ... Rather, she is an A-Rank adventurer, but can the Guild Head really come to a place like this!?)

"Shaddup! Aah mou, Haku-sama said I had to come here... well, she'll look over my dozing if I defeat my enemy here, so I'm going! Fufufu, it'll be an easy win even if I just fight normally though~"

Ooh, Misha-san huh? When I took a look at Haku-san, she was smiling. This is her punishment?

[And now for the monster that will be her enemy—this arena's star monster, the big tentacle slime! It has a transparent slimy body with tentacles, it's immune to physical attacks so it's pleasant in various ways! A grappler dares to challenge an opponent that negates physical attacks, this is exactly what a challenger should be!]

... Yup, this is definitely a punishment. Undulating, the slime's body looks around twice Misha's size. The slime lurked along into the arena like a sea anemone, its tentacles billowing as it was being introduced.

"Eh, no way, I didn't hear anything about this! Wa—wait! Hyaaah—!?"

The scream of an A-Rank adventurer echoed through the colosseum. Furthermore, Haku-san put her hands over Rokuko's eyes from behind.

"Huh? Haku Ane-sama? I can't see."

"Please wait a moment, Rokuko-chan. I'm in the middle of punishing an undisciplined subordinate right now."

Misha had to endure something a bit awful in the arena. For now, I closed Meat's eyes as well.

Ah, it was amazing how her body got knocked down by the tentacles on the first

move. Like playing with a child.

# Chapter 163 - Touring the Imperial Capital 4

We're a bit away the imperial capital at the sea today.  
At a sandy beach. It's still too cold to wear a swimsuit, but I want to come and swim in the summer.

By the way, Haku-san isn't with us today.

"As expected, work piles when you take three days off to play around..."  
"Nooo, Chloe can deal with this much. I'm busy entertaining Rokuko-chan."  
"That isn't possible."  
"Ah, w-wait. Kuh, I-I'll work today. However, I'll finish up three days' work in this one day! And I'll take tomorrow off again!"

Like that, Chloe dragged her off.  
It looks like you have to do a lot of stuff once you turn into the leader of an empire... Rather, Haku-san actually has that much work? Isn't she supposed to be a retired person, living her life free of worry?  
... Ah, is it that a person of power who doesn't even need to worry about succession issues from aging and longevity can't be idle?  
Being efficient's a problem too. I swear that I'll just leave it to proactive people and sleep.

"... The sea~~~~~!"  
"Woah Kehma, what's wrong? You just shouted out of nowhere."

I wanted to give shouting at the sea a shot.  
White sand with not even a speck of garbage, a transparent blue sea, and bright, refreshing sunlight.  
It'd be the best if there were a beach house or something to take a nap in though. Napping with a seaside breeze... well, it's not summer so it's alright.  
There's a place made to be a sightseeing spot meant for nobles closer to the capital from what I hear, but there aren't any buildings there either... Haku-san's planning on taking Rokuko to a spot being converted into a tourist attraction later on.  
Well, the place we came to today is this beach with nothing on it. We got here

with Dolche-san's—a member of Haku-san's party—[Teleport].

It seems as though all of Haku-san's party members other than Misha can use [Teleport].

Right, other than Misha, who after being slimified by that big tentacle slime yesterday and who somehow defeated it in the end with a physical attack, thinking, “Can’t I just clad my fist with magical power?”, it seems they could all use it.

Dolche-san, who wore a white robe that looked like a certain RPG’s white mage, was exhausted and was laying flat in the shade of a big rock. She was in human form and she didn’y have any particular problem with the sun, but as expected, with her origin being a wraith, she didn’t seem to be that good with bright places.

“Ueh, the sun can just die... I’m melting...”

“Umm, excuse me, there are a lot of sea roaches.”

“... I’m fine. I like insects and spiders. Fufufu, scutter scutter...” [1]

... Let’s leave Dolche-san alone.

Maybe there’s some shade nearby that I can sleep in too? I brought a parasol and beach chair just in case though.

“Wait, we came here for the preview where to build the dungeon, not to sleep!”

“... Right... Aah~, doesn’t that cliff over there look like it has an awesome vibe to it? Like a criminal would get chased on to it.”

“The heck? Please do the inspection properly.”

After thinking about it, even if we inspect the area, we’re going to be making the dungeon underground, so it doesn’t feel like it’ll change much depending on where it’s built.

I could use as much salt water as I want here, maybe I could make some salt?

... Salt, yep. Come to think of it, I wonder what Rin’s up to around now?

“This is the first time I’ve come here, but this place is smelly isn’t it?”

“That’d be the smell of the salt water. The smell is a bit weaker than the ocean I remember, but I don’t really dislike it.”

“Smells fishy... Hey, Kehma. Could we use the sea’s monsters?”



Sea monsters huh... maybe. Something like a kraken or sharks?  
I opened the DP catalog from the menu.  
... Hohoh, there's even a shark with two heads. I wonder if there's stuff like ghost sharks or flying sharks?

For right now, the ones that stand out are the giant squid, giant octopus, and giant nautilus. There are ones pretty close to humans like sahagins and mermaids, as well as plenty of sea creatures like jellyfish and sea cucumbers. [2]  
... Dagon? Feels like I shouldn't look too closely at the catalog. It doesn't really matter this time though. It costs more than 100,000,000 DP. [3]

And then I noticed something.  
Various sea-type things were cheap in the DP department... In exchange for that, mountain-type things like [Heat Source] or a wyvern, which were both unconnected to the sea, were more expensive.  
Even something like the iron golem, which was 500 DP each at Tsuia Mountain, had quadrupled in price up to 2,000 DP here.

"... Could it be that DP changes depending on the location?"  
"Heeeh, let me see... Un? Goblins didn't change, they're still 20 DP."

Why was the first thing you checked goblins? As expected of Rokuko.  
... Ah, ghost-types are cheaper? I guess they would appear more often at sea. I would've thought that they would in mountains as well though.

"I see, so there's a difference in DP depending on the situation, matching the characteristics of the area... It seems the dungeon core and master increase or decrease the various costs as well."  
"No no Kehma, what're you saying... it would've been impossible to get another world's rice if it weren't Kehma."

Oh yeah. So it was my characteristics that made it so I could buy Japanese goods with DP then? Maybe golems as well since they're human-type? Haku-san was also using humanoid bipedal monsters that used both hands.  
... In that case, it'd be better to learn about our opponent. Looks like we could take advantage of it for some countermeasures.

"Hey, Rokuko. What is our opponent this time like?"  
"Nn? Umm, the first one is Team Dragon's three cores, a snake, a frog, and a

slug.”

What a three-way deadlock. Reptile, amphibian, and... what was a slug? A shellfish? Seems like those guys would get creepy-slimy monsters on the cheap.

[3]

“Well, the Demon Lord Team’s was in human form, but... umm, Core No. 666 is.... what was she? Sorry. I don’t know!”

“... I’ll try asking Haku-san tomorrow.”

For now I took out the beach chair and parasol I’d put in my [Storage] for just this sort of occasion.

Stabbing the parasol’s pole into the sand, I laid down on the beach chair under the shade.

The sound of the waves made for a really pleasant background sound. Looks like I’ll get some good rest here.

“... Meat, doesn’t it look like it’d be really fun to make a castle where the sand meets the sea?”

“Yes, I’ll join you.”

By the way, when I woke up in the evening, it might’ve been washed away by the tides or maybe they just didn’t make it, but there was no sand castle.

# Chapter 164 - Touring the Imperial Capital 5

Today is the mountain. And we're being guided by Amelia-san, a lamia. Unfortunately, Haku-san is still stuck working today and couldn't make it. Aaah, it's so nice being carefree.

"May I ask for your cooperation, Rokuko-sama?"

"Err, what should I do?"

"Please say [My Onee-sama that can do her work is so amazing]."

"Got it!"

Like that, Haku-san was able to work energetically for the rest of the day. Let's enjoy this foray into the forest under the guise of it being an investigation. To be exact, by taking a nap.

"... Haku-sama is usually a very amazing person you know? Umm, when you all influence her, she, umm. She feels relaxed? Maybe I should say that she's able to feel less restrained...?"

"Ah, yeah. Yeah. I guess."

"Sorry..."

Yep. It's not your fault, Amelia-san.

Now then, let's start over. Today, we went to a mountain that bordered the Demon King's territory.

The forest was thick, the sound of many leaves being rustled by the wind was pleasing to the ears.

I immediately opened the DP catalog.

... Hmm, they're almost the same costs. Looks like Haku-san didn't recommend it for nothing. I'd be able to make a dungeon that's practically the same feeling as our current one here.

I could even make one that's exactly the same as [Cave of Desires]. I'd have to show off my hand, though.

... Even if Haku-san isn't here, she'll be monitoring us if the dungeon's within her territory through Menu-san's power. I can't do anything careless.

"... I wanted to ask Haku-san about Core 666, but she isn't here. Oh well."

“Hey, Kehma? What’s that net for? Are you going to catch a boar or something?”

“Nah, this is called a hammock. It’s bedding!”

By the way, other than the net that I’ll be using to sleep on, I also got a cloth to act as a wall. It’ll be more comfortable to sleep like that.

“Heeh, that looks interesting.”

Amelia-san chimed in. By the way, she canceled her humanization after coming to the mountain, so her lower half is like a snake’s. As expected of a lamia. It’s seven meters long.

“Whenever I go to sleep outside, I sleep coiled around a tree.”

“Hoh, a sleeping technique unique to lamias huh. Sounds great, what’s it like?”

“Yeah, I coil around a big tree and lay my upper half on a thick branch. So, how’s this hammock thing used?”

“I’ll show you.”

It’d be faster to show her than trying to explain, so I looked for a suitable tree. Luckily, there’s a lot of trees here.

I asked Meat to attach hooks to some trees at appropriate intervals and set the hammock up there. After making sure that it wouldn’t give in with some weight put on it first, I went and lied down in the hammock.

It kinda feels like being an orange wrapped in a net.

“Like this. It’s pretty comfortable.”

“Hmm, hmm... Is there a longer one? Around seven meters.”

“Not on me, unfortunately. It’s pretty easy to make though, the structure is simple.”

“I see, I see. Looks like a bedding that lets you sleep while stretching out your legs.”

What legs? Your lower half is a snake’s.

... ..

Eh, why’s it suddenly feel so erotic? The heck.

Rokuko came over and poked me through the hammock. Then shook me.

“Hey Kehma. Couldn’t you do stuff like that over at our dungeon?”

“That’s that, this is this.”

“Hmph. I want to see all sorts of stuff since this is such a special occasion!”

Come to think of it, Rokuko doesn’t usually get out much huh. She’s pretty much always in the dungeon... she’s practically a hikikomori.

Her personality’s a pretty active one though. I can’t figure out if she’s the indoors type or outdoors type.

“Why not go check things out then? Amelia-san will be with you, it’s not like you’d be in any danger.”

“Are you sure? Kehma would be defenseless though! Wouldn’t you be attacked by animals?”

Ah, that’s a problem. I forgot that a bear or something might show up.

“Protecting Goshujin-sama, I volunteer.”

“Aah, Slave-chan Slave-chan. If I had to say, this area is rather dangerous, so it really would be rather dangerous if I’m not with you. There’s even a High Orc village... ah, they won’t attack so long as I’m here though. I’m pretty strong.”

A High Orc is an advanced species of Orc, they’re pretty strong. They’re weaker than dragons, but are definitely stronger than me. A village would be as strong as two or three orders of knights.

By the way, that village is one of the ones under Haku’s control, so I guess they’re part of her reserve forces for her war against the Demon King’s army... There’s also the possibility that Amelia-san telling them to not attack us and negotiate was included in the [Assignment from the upper core], so I’d like to avoid that for now. Haku-san did also say that I should negotiate with mercenaries myself.

“... Hmm, well, it’s not just monsters and animals, the normal insects are irritating and it’s not as good of an environment to sleep in as the sea... oh well. Mountain plants or whatever, I’ll go with you.”

“Yay! Let’s go, Kehma!”

I decided to go along with Rokuko, who was in the lead with a giant grin on her face... It’s not like I went along because Rokuko was giving off an aura that shouted that she wanted to go for a walk or anything. The hammock just didn’t feel right. I’m not sleepy at all.

“Kehma, can I eat this mushroom!? It’s so blue!!”

“Hey, don’t just go and touch it. There was some crazy mushrooms that can harm you just from touching them in the world. Rather, isn’t that one obviously poisonous? Throw it away.”

“Ah, that one is edible.”

“Seriously!?”

“Ah, sorry. I mean it is for lamias. It’s poisonous for normal people.”

“... I wonder if a Dungeon Core can?”

“Haku-sama said that it is better to not eat them.”

“Amelia-sama, this one?”

“Ah, Slave-chan, that one is a delicious one that can be eaten by humans as well. Let’s stew it up later.”

With that sort of mood, we strolled along with Rokuko occasionally picking up poisonous plants and Meat finding wild plants that could be eaten.

Thanks to Rokuko, I’m now pretty good at finding the poisonous flora around here. Hahaha, wonder if I could use that for something? Making a dungeon here might just be pretty useful.

# Chapter 165 - Touring the Imperial Capital 6

We're at a prairie today.

It's a flat area sizable enough to be used for military maneuvers.

Haku-san's here today. Misha's with us as well for some reason.

Misha carried a large parasol so that Haku-san and Rokuko could be in the shade.

Isn't that Chloe-san's job?

"Chloe can process documentation, Misha cannot. That is why."

So that was it?

Haku smiled and laughed while walking hand-in-hand with Rokuko... This is a picnic, isn't it.

"However, this area is used for maneuvers, so it would be a little troubling for the dungeon to be made here. If it were somewhat closer to the border, however..."

"That place is obviously used as a battlefield though?"

"Oh? Wouldn't that be great for DP income? Besides, undead would be quite inexpensive, right?"

It's the always-smiling expression from a while ago. Looks like she's glad to be able to settle her business and go out together with Rokuko.

By the way, when I checked out the DP catalog in this prairie, buffaloes, boars, and other quadrupedal animals were cheap. Even rabbits, too.

"Well then, shall we have you a simulated fight against Misha today, Kehma-san?"

With a smile, Haku-san clapped her hands together... what's she saying now?

"Having Misha, an active A-Rank adventurer, to practice with; aren't you happy enough to weep?"

"Nope, I'm the dungeon master. I have to stay in the back."

"I'd be troubled if you didn't at least have enough skill be a B-Rank adventurer."

"What about Rokuko?"

“Rokuko-chan is okay. Isn’t her cuteness S-Rank? Besides, jeopardizing the dungeon core is ridiculous.”

Her attitude difference between me and Rokuko is too much... maybe I should be used to it already? Even though Rokuko is a B-Rank adventurer too...

“Let’s take a break to watch Misha and Meat have a mock battle?”

Rokuko came up with a compromise.

I took a quick peek at Meat... she was overflowing with enthusiasm.

“Haah, then please practice with Meat. Don’t be too hard on her.”

“Please, Misha-sama.”

“Umu! Leave it to me!”

Misha struck her chest. It shook.

“Well then... Oh budding seeds. Sprout and stretch—[Grow Wood].”

When Haku-san cast a spell, a tree grew up.

Misha put away the parasol into [Storage] and took out a cloth, placing it in the tree’s shade.

... She grew a tree to use instead of a parasol? Really?

“Rokuko-chan, let’s watch from here.”

“Alright, Ane-sama.”

I also went into the tree’s shade. I wasn’t allowed to sit on the cloth, but I didn’t particularly complain about it.

Holding her golem knife, Meat faced off against Misha.

Meanwhile, Misha was barehanded. As we were shown just a few days ago, she was a grappler.

It’s a mock battle, but weapons are serious. After Haku-san proposed that both sides use what they normally would, Misha gave the OK to it as well.

“So—start whenever, okay?”

“Yes.”

Misha stood casually, not taking a stance. Just then, Meat suddenly slashed down.

However, the side of the knife was abruptly pushed aside by Misha’s hand,



evading it without even a single step.

“Hmph, that’s a good blade. Your skills aren’t too shabby either. You’ll get better. Now, please, come at me. I won’t even move a step, alright?”

“... Hah!”

“Ah.”

Gakin!

The sound of metal clashing against metal rang out.

The source was Misha’s foot meeting Meat’s golem knife.

When I took a better look, Misha’s body was covered with an aura that protected her against the knife.

“Fufufu, to aim for my feet right after I said that I wouldn’t take a step... your owner’s teaching is good.”

“You stopped... it?”

Meat backed up, taking a distance from her. A smile spread out across Misha’s face. Looks like she didn’t intend on attacking.

“What was that?”

“[Hard Qigong]. It makes things incredibly tough... Misha, if you take even a single step, you lose, alright?”

“Eeeh!? W-wait a sec please, Haku-sama! Really, that’s—at least let me use kicks!”

“Alright, Meat. Go ahead and use whatever skills you want. I will reward you if you win~”

“Understood! Oh flame, become a ball and hit my enemy—[Fireball].”

“Uwaaah, wa—!? Fireball at my feet!? H-hoooooot!!”

After that, Meat mercilessly continued with magic skills and long ranged attacks, each being intercepted through Misha’s [Distant Guard]. She guarded against the relentless strikes at her feet with [Hard Qigong]. She also counterattacked Meat who had drawn closer.

And then—

“Hoi!”

“Ugu! ... Ukyuu...”

Struck a counter, Meat was thrown to the ground from a blow to the gut. She

was held against the ground with hands on her back. She wasn't able to move, let alone get up.

That's match set, huh.

"Phew, see, Haku-sama? I won!"

"Well done, Misha. You won against a child."

"Eeeeh~~..."

Standing up, Meat walked over to me.

"My apologies, I lost..."

"What? You did well against Misha, she's an A-Rank."

We're originally D-Ranks, so that result should be reasonable. I stroked Meat's head.

Meat closed her eyes in comfort and wagged her tail.

"Now, next up is Kehma-san, correct? If you can cause Misha to take even one step, it will be Kehma-san's win... If you win, I'll give you information on Core 666."

Haku-san smiled pleasantly. Did she hear something from Amelia-san? ... Will she seriously not give me the information if I lose? If I lose the Dungeon Battle, she'd be able to legitimately take Rokuko, wouldn't she?

"... Can't be helped, is it fine if I get the first shot?"

"Well, that much should be fine. Is it alright, Misha?"

"Honestly, that dog eared one is stronger, so it should be fine. Ah, let me change my stance before we start."

Saying that, Misha spread her legs apart at shoulder-width, dropping her center of gravity.

Improving her stability huh. Just when I thought that—Bang! Bang!—she stamped against the ground with each foot like a sumo wrestler... She's serious here, huh?

—Come at me.

Misha looked at me as though to say that.

... I'm going to wipe off that confident look of yours.

"Kehma, decide it in one shot!"

“Goshujin-sama, do your best.”

“Yeah.”

Getting Rokuko and Meat’s encouragement, I stood before Misha. I then placed a small magic stone at Misha’s feet and recited a spell incantation.

“Mass of earth, change your form, abide me and become my servant—  
[Create Golem].”

“Uwah!? A golem, under me!?”

Misha fell over. It’s my win.

# Chapter 166 - Touring the Imperial Capital 7

Idiot, a Dungeon Master wouldn't fight you head on.  
It doesn't matter how well you prepare your stance if the foundation under you overturns.

"Yep, my win."  
"Crafty, as expected of Kehma. No one beats you when it comes to unfair victories!"

Rokuko smiled.  
Was that meant to be a compliment? It probably was. Stuff like cowardice and cunning are just compliments to Dungeon Masters.

"... Oh my, oh my. It looks like you were defeated, Misha?"  
"No, uhh—! I was just tricked right!?"  
"Taking even a single step would count as a loss. Did you not take more than a single step? You would be a splendid loser by stopping there though? To start with, it was worse for you to not be vigilant of earth magic after hearing the rules. Fufu, with this, do you see just how absurd resourceful generals can be, Misha?"  
"Uwaaahn..."

Misha started sobbing, but Haku-san's judgement wasn't budged.  
"So then, now to talk about Core 666, is it? What do you want to hear? I'll teach you anything that I can answer."  
"First thing's first then, what kind of Dungeon Core is Core 666?"

When I asked that, Haku-san closed her eyes a bit and hummed as though trying to recall.

"Mm, I only vaguely remember what she is since she uses humanization. First off is the Demon King Faction, they are inanimate-type or demon-type."  
"Inanimate-type? What's that?"  
"I have a Living Armor as well, it's like that. Other than that, there are things like Mimics—imitation treasure chests—as well."

So they were something like that huh. Maybe I should assume something like that will appear in the Dungeon Battle?

“Yeah, and this is something that Rokuko-chan knows as well, but... she has a blazing magic sword and red hair. Also, the victory condition this time is [The Destruction of the Dummy Core]. It was 666 that had destruction be the condition rather than touching.”

“Oh yeah, that’s right huh! She definitely wants to crush and smash it somehow.”

“Oi Rokuko, there’s some important info there.”

“Eh, her wanting to crush it?”

“No, her going with the destruction method.”

Since she suggested it, there’s got to be some hidden intention there. On the other hand, I could also suspect that she wants me to think that... but even so there’s some meaning to it.

At the very least, I can’t win by having rats suicide attack the dummy core. Rats don’t actually have much offensive power.

“Mm, I can’t say anything more about 666. It is a breach of etiquette to discuss the true form of a core that uses humanization in the first place.”

That said, Haku-san ended our talk. It’d be great if she taught me more about their etiquette, but at least she told me the essentials for this.

“Rather, Kehma-san, that was a splendid [Create Golem].”

“Yeah, [Create Golem] is my specialty.”

I wound up showing one of my hands, but I’d originally planned to show that one.

I can add golems without using DP, so that would be exposed immediately. In truth, even though this skill is a little rare, it’s not like there aren’t any adventurers that know it.

You can get it through DP, so Haku-san, a Dungeon Core, would obviously know about the skill.

“You can augment your monster forces without needing to use much DP if you have a create or summon-type skill... fufu, I haven’t done it recently, but I

used to use that method a lot in the past.”

Right? There’s no way that Haku-san wouldn’t have used such a great cost-to-performance method.

The summon-type one is a magic skill that is able to summon monsters that exist somewhere on this world. It’s not as convenient for dungeons as it continues to consume magical power while being used, but it’s not a problem if you pinpoint summon something as a boss when needed. Also, the amount of magical power needed changes depending on the strength of the monster you summon.

“Please let me know if you have any other recommended creation or summon-type skills for me.”

“Oh my, they are in the DP catalog though? I recommend all of them.”

... Maybe it’d be fine to use up all of this time’s 500,000 DP on those. Even if the dungeon gets taken away, it’s not like I’d be losing anything after using the scrolls on myself.

“By the way, [Summon Golem] is upwardly compatible with [Create Golem]. If you are skilled, you could even summon stone and iron golems.”

“That’s a good thing to know.”

I might even be able to summon a mithril or orichalcum golem. It might also be a good idea to use one as a boss monster for the dungeon if I can. When I thought about something like that, Meat was asking to be able to practice with Misha.”

“Misha-sama, I, want to get stronger... Please.”

“Sure~. Beastkin and Werebeasts are like relatives after all. Let’s get along, Kuroinu-chan.”

Misha held out her hand. Meat nodded and shook hands with her. Then, Misha continued by striking Meat in the head just like that. Meat was blown back about three meters.

“Hyaaha~! There’s no need for first-class practice for a lowly doggy! I’m a battle junkie that won’t even go easy on children! Losing your focus in a field is inexcusable~!”

“Guh... I let my guard down...”

“You can still stand? I’ll go juuust soft enough so you won’t get seriously hurt, so be don’t go and get too bashed up now. Excellent adventurers are the Adventurer Guild’s treasures after all. I’ll beat it into your soul that kitties are better than doggies!”

“I look forward... to that...!”

So there’s a discord between cats and dogs in this world too huh. Misha was practicing with the high-spirited Meat as though she were trying to bully her. When she was too injured to continue, Haku-san would heal her with [Healing], allowing for Meat to become battered yet again.

This continued on until evening.

Meat wasn’t able to land even a single blow on Misha the whole time.

“... Phew, your reactions are pretty great... for a doggy. I’ll be looking forward to your growth.”

“Yes... thank you...”

Meat spoke while laying stretched out on the ground. Good work. Seriously, good work. Tonight’s dinner will be an all-you-can-eat of Meat’s favorite, hamburgers.

Meanwhile, Rokuko was sleeping with her head on Haku-san’s lap. Must be nice~.

Well, that’s something that’ll be exclusive to Rokuko.

“... Ah, it’s over?”

“Oh? You woke up. They just finished, Rokuko-chan.”

“... Ah, s-sorry, Haku Ane-sama, drool—! I’ll [Clean—”

“Fufu, I don’t mind.”

By the way, I heard that Misha is able to keep fighting for seven days straight without rest.

Being able to fight without sleeping for a whole week, she’s inhuman... Ah, she’s a Werecat.

... I’m tired just from watching it all. Let’s sleep with Meat as a hug pillow when we get back.

# Chapter 167 - Extra: A Souvenir and Technological Innovation

“... Ooooooh! This is wonderful~!”

When I handed Nerune the [Permanent Fountain Pen-kun] that I got from touring the capital, she was already incredibly excited.

“Gugugu, I want to take it apart... but there’s a protection on it that would erase the magic formation when it’s disassembled...!”

“There is?”

“Said so in the manual~! As expected of [Hero Studio] huh~”

Wonder if it’s the cheat skill of a god’s vanguard/hero?

“Hmmm, making something the same as it would be impossible then huh.”

“It looks like it replenishes ink when you fill it with magical power~. Liquid, and black... is it earth magic~?”

By the way, there’s a transparent plate on the side of the fountain pen, so we’re able to see the remaining amount of ink.

While on the subject, the color of the ink it comes with isn’t just black, but a colorful red, blue, and green too. I just bought the basic black one this time.

“Is the ink made with water?”

“Isn’t it something else~?”

“Eh, I don’t know. Maybe they’re using oil or something?”

Just to say, normally, ink is made from magic tools like [Hero Studio]’s [Ink Maker-kun]. How is that normal...

“... In other words, [Hero Studio] does nothing but focus on getting monopolies, huh.”

“Looks like it~. Or maybe it’s just that no one could even imitate them~”

For them to continue the workshop for a few hundred years, it’s like they made [Magic Tools That Make Magic Tools] or something. Or maybe the person is still alive?



... Let's not think too hard about it.

By the way, I didn't buy the [Fuelless Pot] or [Hotpot-kun], but I told her that there was stuff like that too.

"The [Stove] that master talked about a while ago is more convenient~. You could even use it with normal pots and pans, switching in and out is simple too~. It'd be a single iron plate as a magic tool, so it wouldn't take up space either~"

"... It does sound convenient with you talking about it like that."

"Ah, right. Gar-kun, bring me the 16th fire prototype... Ahh, thanks~"

Nerune's assistant gargoyle silently brought her a box, handing it to her. When Nerune took the box from it and patted its head, the gargoyle seemed satisfied as it returned to its spot in the corner of the room. The thing that was in the box was an unfired clay plate with a magic formation engraved into it.

"This is the prototype stove~. I made it out of clay since it's a prototype, but since I used the dial's magic formation from when we made the kotatsu, the strength can be regulated too~"

"As expected of Nerune, making something like that."

"... It's thanks to master~. It would crack if it got put into a bag since it's made from clay, but master could easily mass produce them with steel plates right~?"

It's not like I couldn't, but it sounds like a pain. Seriously. Moreover, like this, the whole stove gets hot when it's used. In that case, let's make a single raw clay plate and not care about being able to carry it around. That should be fine for a prototype.

"Right, why don't we make a wooden frame to insert the clay plate in? Since we want the protruding part to be resilient, we'll just make some drilling there and insert an iron plate. Erm... can I bore a hole here without affecting the magic formation?"

I held onto the clay plate for just a bit, and by shaving in a blank space with [Create Golem], I made holes on the protruding part. Afterwards, I made a wooden board to put them together and just by attaching an iron plate, it was completed.

Yup, it's a slim stove, it gives off some good vibes.

"... If it's like that, you don't have to worry about it cracking if I cover it with a lid huh~. That way it'll still be made with clay, so I can make it without having to trouble Goshujin-sama~"

"Oh, that's good. As expected of Nerune. Well then, please take it from here."

Oh, so she's going to make a lid for it as well huh. Really, our researcher is excellent.

I handed the raw clay plate with a magic formation on it back to Nerune. I'll show it off to Gozoh when it's done.

"I'm not that good, it's all thanks to Goshujin-sama~"

"Don't be so humble, Nerune. I'll be expecting a lot from you!"

"... I'm not humble though~? I have no ideas~. Hafuu."

Nerune sighed.

"Making magic formations with clay with endless magic stones... it's at the level that Kantra-shishou would get stunned and faint you know~?"

"Oh. Come to think of it, I'd like to add a timer to the oven. Could you link a timer golem to it? I'd like it to be something like a dial that you turn to the time you want, twisting back to the off position over time."

"See!? A technological innovation just like that! Uwaaaaaahn."

Nerune lightly wailed her hands against me.

Hahaha, this girl. It'll start hurting after a bit, so please don't do it too long.

\*

Later on, it looks like my [Take it from here] was understood as [Mass produce them with this], so ten slim stoves were completed.

So mass producing them became feasible huh... just one would've been enough though.

I decided to put a tabletop toaster oven (made with phoenix eggshells) in Nerune's laboratory as a bonus. I made it after figuring out I could mix together the phoenix eggshells with the stove with [Create Golem].

With this, she'll be able to have as much toast or whatever as she wants. Wonder if she'll like it?

“... Kantra-shishou would die in agony~. Well, it'll be easy to fire the clay in the laboratory now, so things will be easier now~”

“Ah, that so?”

“Yeah~, thank you so much~... And something like a desk oven huh~, that's something else new~”

... Well, above all, looks like she's happy.

Let's give Kinue-san one of the leftover stoves and put the rest in the dungeon's treasure chests.

They'll be the jackpot.

# Chapter 168 - Dungeon Battle Strategy Meeting

I think it's about time to get started on making the dungeon.  
I was able to see various things around the capital with the feeling of a tourist.  
Now I just have to decide on a place and hollow out a dungeon.

Because of that, I decided to have a meeting to determine the dungeon's location. Rokuko fell asleep a few seconds into the meeting since she was tired from playing though. Her sleeping face looks happy, what a free girl.  
Haku-san was pardoning her and had wrapped a blanket around her. I think she's spoiling her a bit much though. Isn't this a discussion about Rokuko's dungeon?

"So, Kehma-san. Where are you wanting the dungeon to be?"  
"I'm thinking of making it here."

I pointed to a place on the map.  
... The sea.

"... .. Kehma-san, are you jesting?"

Her smile disappeared, replaced with blood thirst. Oh crap.

"No, I'm serious, really! I'm not kidding around!"  
"Please explain then. We high-ranking cores have received the rights and obligation to hear explanations regarding strategy as [Advising our juniors] from Otou-sama."  
"Y-yeah! I will begin explaining my strategy for this battle!"

I could feel Haku-san leaking anger and expectations as she started speaking more politely to me. It was probably intentional, but still, it's super scary.

There's a gimmick I've been thinking about for the Dungeon Battle. It's an undersea dungeon.  
Assuming that I made a dungeon at the bottom of the sea, it'll be a sea, so naturally, it'd be impossible to breathe.

Impossible to capture? It's just a dungeon that anyone can enter. It just has a bit of water everywhere.

Like when we captured [Flame Cavern] with the water flea strategy... it'll be kind of like that, but as it'd obviously be hard to actively search around with water fleas, I'll just substitute them out for some small fish. I'll summon a massive amount of sardines, unleashing a tsunami in our enemy's dungeon.

This is a hand that can only be used with the sea. This wouldn't be enough to expose my hand. I explored Haku-san's dungeons using rats in large numbers, so she already knows about it too.

It'd be awesome if I could use sharks to destroy the enemy's dungeon core.

... Well, it might be ineffective against the inanimate-type Core 666, but it should at least be effective against that three-way deadlock trio. If I do that, it should be alright for me to just focus on countermeasures for Core 666. [1]

"With that, I will narrow down the opponents I need to focus on in the Dungeon Battle to be solely Core 666."

"I see. That is a suitable reason, at least... well, Kehma-san, what do you intend to make for the undersea dungeon? Working underwater, let alone so deep... will 500,000 suffice?"

I thought that the 500,000 would be enough, maybe not?

"... Besides, there is the minimum condition of having [Aisles] and [Rooms] that humans can survive in, so they cannot be made in water. Even if they were possible to make, I think that it would turn into something like a bubble dome. Moreover, it would require an inefficient amount of DP to maintain the walls."

So there was something like that? Rather, from how she's talking it sounds like something like that exists.

... A bubble dome huh. Sounds like The Palace of the Dragon King. [2]

"You could, perhaps, keep the dungeon walls shaped properly while they are collapsing and being repaired at high speeds. They wouldn't appear too shoddy that way. Even so, I cannot approve of making a dungeon on the ocean floor."

"I'm convinced. Let's choose a different spot."

As expected of my experienced senior, she has an experienced opinion... Ah. Exchanging information like this is probably what this [Father] guy intended

huh. Well, it would've been great if there weren't a drawback to it though.

"I'll pick here then."

I pointed to the beach this time.

"Hoh, there? Do you have a reason?"

"It's simple. If I can't make it in water, can't I just sink it into water after I make it?"

I know that I can fill it with water after I've made it... I've even done it. When I said that, Haku-san made a face that looked like she just got a headache.

"Just where did you get that idea..."

"Is it no good?"

"No, it's possible. It really is. However, to sink a dungeon you made yourself, it's practically unheard of.... rather, wouldn't it be impossible to live in?"

Hmm? Why's she talking about now?

"Why are you talking about living? Aren't dungeons places to kill your enemies? Even more so as this dungeon is just for the sake of a Dungeon Battle. Even then, I have [Cave of Desires] for a home."

"... Ah, that's right, you do have that. Kehma-san is a human, so you haven't thought about something like living in the dungeon, have you? ... This would become something like Rokuko-chan's holiday house if you win, you know? Wouldn't you dislike it if your holiday house were submerged under water?"

Haku-chan took a quick glance at Rokuko. Still though, Rokuko hasn't even said anything since the meeting started. She's just been sleeping while sitting on that chair.

However, she hasn't given a dissenting opinion to her holiday house being submerged, so should I take that as an OK?

"Haku-san. There's a saying in a famous story from my hometown."

"A saying from another world? What is it?"

I coughed to clear my throat.

"Victory is all that matters in the end!!" [3]

The joke shouldn't be able to pass on to people from another world, but the nuance should be able to.

And so, the sleeping Rokuko woke up with a jolt.

"Fueh!? W-wha, I-I definitely wasn't sleeping!"

Hey. You're still drooling and you're trying to say that?

"Well... in short, the most important thing is winning, respecting honor and courtesy comes after that. Win any way possible."

... The saying explains Kehma-san's thinking quite well, doesn't it? Certainly, there is no such thing cowardice in a Dungeon Battle."

"Eh, what? What's going on? Kehma, tell me!"

"I just explained it. You were sleeping though."

And so I once again explained to Rokuko about my plans to submerge the dungeon.

"Oh, that's alright."

"Alright? Rokuko-chan, your holiday house would be underwater. Are you really sure?"

"Eh? Don't we just need to drain it after the Dungeon Battle? Right, Kehma?"

Oh, Rokuko gave a sound argument. That way, she could use it as both. Was she thinking about it while she was asleep? Who does that remind me of...?

"Well, Kehma can do what he wants. I'll just fix it up after."

"Yep, I'll leave it to you, partner."

"Leave it to me, partner. Fufufun."

She started saying some pretty reliable stuff at some point. By the way, you wouldn't be able to fix anything up if we lose. It'll just get confiscated. In a sense, she's just believing in my ability to win... right?

"... I seem to somehow lost my ability to think flexibly, apparently... haaah..."  
"It's just because I've been with Kehma the whole time! It's experience, experience."

"Should I be pleased by Rokuko-chan's growth or should I be lamenting over her being tainted by Kehma-san's way of thinking..."

Haku-san was seriously suffering over something that could only be a good thing.

After that, we hammered out the underwater dungeon plan with things like the dungeon monster selection, working on it all while getting Haku-san's council. She pointed out a lot of small things I wouldn't have noticed on certain ways to cope against enemies, as expected of Haku-san. My admiration for her was renewed.

Looks like I'll be able to win without needing to use my trump card, the special golems.

"Our opponents have Core 5 and Core 6 with them."

I was thinking about that, but Haku-san gave me a warning. Right, just like our team, theirs had veterans as well. I can't relax.

After that bountiful meeting, I decided to start constructing the dungeon tomorrow.

Eh, Rokuko? You fell asleep again.

Well, whatever. You'll fix it all up after I do what I like... better be ready!



# Chapter 169 - Making the Dungeon

First thing's first, time to excavate the dungeon.

I had our golems dig out holes with shovels and pickaxes to save on even a small bit of DP.

I'm in the dummy core's temporary Master Room. For this Dungeon Battle, [Father] provided special dummy cores that allowed for a place for the seniors and juniors to relax in. (I don't get how it's different from the non-temporary Master Room, but Rokuko and Haku-san said, [It just has that feeling], so yeah.) Well, I shut myself up in here and started issuing commands to the golems to dig holes.

At any rate, I dug holes. Nothing but dig holes with a bang.

"How stingy."

"I don't mind if it's stingy. It's not as though we don't have the time."

Haku-san said that as I was making the dungeon.

We gradually collected the excavated earth, spreading the area bit by bit. Occasionally tossing magic stones onto the ground, I increased the number of workers through [Create Golem].

"What will you be doing with this soil?"

"I'll be using it to make walls later on and reuse it. I could even use it by turning it into golems, as you see here."

"Hmm. Well, using what you are able to is fundamental... However, you were using this way to economize? Using [Create Golem] to make use of the materials after you have dug it up is quite useful."

"Yeah, well."

It's a bit difficult exposing my saving techniques, but this much should be fine. It's just standard economizing, so exposing it to Haku-san shouldn't help her any. It's like talking to someone that manages the national budget about how to save on some loose change.

Well, it's fine as long as my magic altering cheat that I mostly use on [Create Golem] isn't exposed.

“Haku-san probably doesn’t need to worry about stuff like that now, you have an abundance of DP even if you don’t economize.”

“Right... It is useful for using with rules that limit DP like this time and the one I had with Kehma-san before, but I rarely do Dungeon Battles like this. They are usually unrestricted.”

Well for me, two of the three rounds including this time have had DP restricted rules.

“Fufun, Kehma’s strong point is being stingy with DP!”

“Don’t say it so pointedly.”

“It is a fact that I cannot help but recognize how skilled you are at it though.”

“Yeah, Kehma is a cheater that’ll even win against Haku Ane-sama if he has the same DP!”

“Hey, are you trying to praise me or beat me down here?”

“Eh? I’m praising you! Cheater.”

... That’s a compliment? Dungeon Core culture is amazing.

Ah, incidentally, Haku-san finally started using the technique of being with Rokuko outside while working on her paperwork. So now she’s filling out documents and letters while sitting next to Rokuko, who was supervising the golems’ work.

“... Chloe-san. Is it alright for Haku-san to be taking those official documents outside like this?”

“It isn’t alright exactly, but something of this degree is no problem so long as Haku-sama is able to work in comfort. If something happens, Haku-sama will just have to accept the responsibility for it.”

Ah, that so? The person in charge said they’d be taking responsibility if anything happened, so she took them out and disregarded anything good or bad about doing so huh.

“Kehma, don’t you have to work as the village chief?”

“Huh? I left everything to all of my subordinates. Well, I’ll show up if there’s any problem to take care of, but it’s going well right now.”

Honestly, it’s probably going so well because I’m not there.

“Enviably. Right, Kehma-san, help me out a bit with these documents. My income and expenses aren’t matching, can you see where?”

“Isn’t it just a noble or something lining their pockets on the side? Rather, please don’t show me the empire’s confidential documents. Are you trying to get me killed?”

“Oh? Doesn’t Kehma-san already know the empire’s most well kept secret of me being a Dungeon Core? What are you saying so late into the game.”

Come to think of it... she’s right!?

“Eh, then Haku Ane-sama’s been aiming at Kehma’s life the whole time!? That’s a no no Ane-sama! Kehma is my partner!”

“My my. It’s alright, I’m not aiming for his life at least.”

“Ah, good. That’s alright then.”

At least... eh, doesn’t that mean you’re intending to do something to the point that I won’t die?

I handed back the documents she gave me so that I wouldn’t see inside. Let’s just concentrate on making the dungeon for now...

I say that, but it’s just the golems digging holes and expanding the area bit by bit as we decided before, so I’m free for a while. I’ve made plenty of hole digging golems. This is a dungeon so they can get mana from it and won’t stop moving either.

... Ah, come to think of it, Rokuko knows [Create Golem] too huh. When did that happen again...?

Couldn’t I just leave completing the dungeon to Rokuko and have some leisure time? Rather, her [Create Golem] should look more natural than mine.

“Rokuko, can I head out for a bit?”

“It’s alright with me, but what are you going to do? Sleep?”

“I’m going to think about what kind of traps to use.”

I’d love to say that I’m going to go sleep like usual, but I can’t leave Rokuko to work while I go sleep since Haku-san’s here. Grah, doesn’t it feel like I’ve been awake too much recently!?

Well, putting that aside, I’ll think about what kind of traps we’ll use.

... We’ll be putting them underwater, so I want some electricity. Maybe some

poison sprayers?

But what should I do against inanimate-type opponents... Maybe I should go along with what Haku-san recommended and crush them with heavy stuff. Aah, I could use various things as much as normally do if I used [Create Golem], but do I have to make each one of these with DP?

“Maybe I should put some skewers near a falling boulder?”

By the way, the main troops I’m planning on using are [Sardine School], [Shark], and [Merman]. The mermen should be able to fight on land even if we fail to flood the opponent’s dungeon with water.

As expected of Haku-san’s choice... Right, maybe we could use some octopuses too. Octopuses are the ninjas of the sea. They can camouflage in a ‘smokescreen’ and are excellent at invading areas to scout.

I have to think about the traps we set up as much as possible so that it doesn’t affect us.

“Excuse me, Kehma-sama? What is this dagon thing? I have never seen it in the DP Catalog...” [1]

When I was looking through the catalog, Chloe walked over and took a peek. I wasn’t particularly trying to hide it though... ah, she smells good. Come to think of it, she’s always in male clothing despite being a succubus huh. But... huh. So it’s not in Haku-san’s DP Catalog?

“... Ah, this is a creature of myth from another world. If you could, please avoid saying it’s name. Do not look at the catalog either. It’ll chip away at your SAN value.” [2]

“To lose one’s sanity just by looking...? Frightening.”

“Yeah. It’s not something to get involved with.”

I quietly hid the dagon from showing up. If it’s not in Haku-san’s catalog, it might be that that’s part of me being someone from another world. It’s also a monster, so I guess it’s that kind of thing. Maybe I should pay some more attention to the monsters I’m using?

For now, let’s just go with the safe monsters that Haku-san recommended. Yep.

# Chapter 170 - Rokuko's Five Back-to-Back 10,000 DP Gacha

The second day of making the dungeon. I decided to have Rokuko spin the gacha.

Depending on what pops out, I might change the dungeon's structure quite a bit.

"I'll go straight for the 10,000 DP gacha then!"

"Yeah. Go for it."

I'm thinking about having her go and use 200,000 of the 500,000 DP on spinning. First will be five 10,000 DP spins and a hundred fifty 1,000 DP spins after.

"Come to think of it, Kehma-san was summoned through the 1,000 DP gacha, wasn't he?"

"Yeah, he was."

"Something worth ten Kehma-sans is about to appear from the gacha, hmm?"

Haku-san smiled as she spoke.

We already went through that back with the phoenix egg!

"Gacha is very inefficient. You won't know what will come out, so summoning from the catalog that is exact... is what the overwhelming majority of cores do. In truth, there are very little successes that come out. It is almost always better to purchase things directly with DP."

"Oh? I heard that Haku-san had summoned a dragon from the gacha though?"

"Yes, it's something I verified when I had an excess amount of DP. I spun the 1,000 DP gacha ten thousand times before a single infant white dragon appeared. All of the others were failures."

You used 10,000,000 DP in one go...? That's a 0.01% chance!

Nn? Wait a sec. For Rokuko's luck to only give results better than the amount put in, what in the world... no, let's not think about it.

“I trust Rokuko’s luck!”

“I was trusted...! Here I goooo...! Hah!”

Vwoom.

A large magic formation, around ten meters in diameter, appeared.

I wonder if it’ll be the same as the time she used the 1,000 DP gacha and got the phoenix egg (Feni)? It pressed against the outside of the room that time.

“... I suddenly feel like she got a success.”

“See?”

Come to think of it, when I spun the gacha, all that appeared was a super small magic formation.

Just then, the magic formation rotated and began to shrink down to around two meters in diameter—

—and transparent tentacles gushed out, we can see it all now.

TENTACLE SLIME-SAN APPEARED!

“Uwaah, what’s this guy... eh, didn’t we see him a bit ago? He was about twice as big though.”

“For a tentacle slime to appear... its affinity for the dungeon is great, too. Ah, what you had seen before was a big tentacle slime, Rokuko-chan. It was the evolved form of this one.”

“Hmm, so it was a small win then?”

It was worth an equivalent of 80,000 DP. I wasn’t expecting such a big return so quickly, so I found myself smiling.

As expected of Rokuko. Alright now, let’s have her spin another 10,000 DP gacha.

“Oh? It’s small!”

“This one is a fail. Well, this is the usual result.”

Somehow, the magic formation that appeared was only a meter wide. What happened, Rokuko!?

An octopus appeared out of the formation. It has eight deformed legs and a round head. It has a headband on it for some reason. It’s like some kind of anime character.

... This is an octopus, right? It’s not a dagon, right...?

“This is a toon octopus. They are popular as friendly pets due to how cute they look, but they are weak as monsters.”

“Mumu, really?”

They are 500 DP in the catalog, but it looks like they’re sometimes sold for a few silver?

... Maybe I should sell it through one of Haku-san’s connections?

“Ah, but they are able to use a smokescreen underwater. They are able to cause total darkness with a temporary smokescreen that lasts several seconds. Moreover, they won’t die from some fatal attacks and are even able to take quite a beating. Even if they suffer a major injury, they tend to heal completely within around a week’s time.”

The heck, is that some sort of gag compensation? Is it really a toon? The octopus is defective in that it has no attack... it’ll get along well with Rei.

And now it was time to spin the next 10,000 DP gacha. Rokuko’s legendary luck triggered again as another large magic formation appeared.

“Another success... Rokuko-chan, you really are lucky, aren’t you?”  
“Fufu Haku Ane-sama, of course! Nooow, what’ll come out?”

This time, the magic formation shrank to around one meter. Then, with a bang, a barrel appeared.

... A barrel...? The heck’s this?

“... That isn’t a monster. It is an item.”

Come to think of it, we got that [Cooking] skill scroll before huh.

“An item? What kind?”

“It is alcohol. This is an extremely aged vintage wine... It is too much for you, I’ll keep charge of it for now.”

Haku-san cheerfully put away the barrel into her [Storage]. Umm, excuse me... that came from my DP too though? ... Well, it’s all good.

The fourth time. A particularly huge magic formation appeared. Another success huh?

Woah, isn't this one almost fifteen meters wide?

"Oh, this one's pretty amazing."

"... A jackpot? This is the first time I've seen one."

After Haku-san said that, once the magic formation shrank down to being super small, an orb about the size of a palm flew out.

"... This is some sort of skill orb. They are like scrolls, but you won't be able to know what skill they have until they are used... Well, we know which the ones we usually have are since we buy them with DP through the catalog."

"Heeeh. There's stuff like that? Kehma, try using it."

"Why me? I won't be in the front lines even if it's a battle skill or something. You sure?"

"Ah, don't worry. Unlike scrolls, skill orbs can be used several times."

When I looked at the DP Catalog and didn't see any skill orbs, Haku-san said that it is because I haven't purchased many skill scrolls. It's true, I haven't used many.

By the way, the DP cost of an orb is one hundred times the cost of the original scroll. Even so, they'll break after about ten times, so they are extremely inefficient items when it comes to DP. That's why no one uses it, it doesn't appear much in society either.

At any rate, I decided to try using it.

It's used the same way as a scroll, so I put some of my magical power into it.

It was a skill that we got from a jackpot success, so I had some expectations for it.

In response to my magical power pouring into it, the orb started shining brightly as a magical formation entered into my head.

"Uoh, t-this is... what an unusable skill!"

"What kind of skill is it?"

The skill that I learned... was [Blackout Resistance Lv9].

It's effect... the ability to resist effects from skills that cause lack of consciousness and medicine and the like. It's possible to not lose consciousness even in an environment that one would otherwise faint from... Moreover, [Sleeping] is included in the category of [Blacking Out]. MOREOVER moreover,



they'd be fine even after a month of not sleeping.

“Mmm, Dungeon Cores don't need something like that!”

“Oh, but it is a fairly useful skill for adventurers and Dungeon Masters. Not blacking out means that they could continue working without losing their senses. As a Dungeon Master, not sleeping in the middle of a Dungeon Battle decreases how often they are inactive... Kehma-san, now you can continue working without needing to sleep.”

“Please, please spare me...”

Additionally, it's a passive skill. It is always on.

Is this punishment for working too much and not sleeping lately? Oh God of Sleep, please have mercy on me!

“Kehma, look, look! I did the last 10,000 DP gacha spin, it was a fail but [Super Strong Sleeping Pills] came out! It's an incense type!”

“Ooh... but I can tell by intuition... it won't work on me anymore...!”

Excuse me, God of Sleep? Are you teasing this pitiful lamb!?

This lost lamb will have to count sheep over and over from now on!

“Kehma, can't you turn Blackout Resistance on and off?”

“Ah, I can... I'm saved... Thank you Rokuko. You saved me!”

“Oh? That's good. There are many passive skills that cannot be turned off.”

Thank goodness. Let's worship the God of Sleep. I don't know if it exists though.

Seriously, such a dangerous skill is going to be restricted to OFF! It's a matter of life and death here.

# Chapter 171 - 1,000 DP Machine Gun Gacha (x150)

The hundred fifty machine gun back-to-back 1,000 DP gacha finished. For its results, ten monsters, with one hundred and forty skill scrolls and potions, as well as miscellaneous goods and armor. In conclusion, we made a killing. I knew we would the moment that Rokuko started spinning them though.

Let's start with the monsters.

For fails: a flying squid, two marlin tuna, five sharks. For successes: a baby diamond shell turtle and an ammoknight.

... Why are all of the things coming from the gacha water-type? Is it taking the location into account or is it thanks to Rokuko's luck? There was no where to store the sharks and stuff so it was a great help that we're so close to the sea. Where are they now? They're running free in the sea. It'd cause a huge commotion if there were people on the beach!

Ah, the flying squid is a mysterious existence that can soar through the air as though it were swimming underwater. I don't know if it's good for both water and air, but it's cool.

And then there's the turtle.

"Oh? This is... a jeweled turtle? A diamond type one, at that. It is still an infant, but even that would cost 50,000 DP to purchase you know?"

"... How long does it take to grow up, and to what size?"

It's about the size of those green turtles you can buy at festivals... even at that size, there's a super clear diamond on its back.

It looks like it'd be worth quite the sum of money.

"They grow somewhere in the vicinity of one centimeter per year. Oh, come to think of it, jeweled turtle farms are a convenient way to earn DP. It takes around five years to recoup your investment, becoming pure profit after that. I recommend it for dungeon cores that don't use human farms... The method will

get worse if it gets too popular, so don't tell anyone."

"Ah, of course."

Five years of waiting huh. You'd have to be pretty patient and you wouldn't even be able to do it as a dungeon with low income because of their 50,000 DP starting cost.

... Well, thinking about it as an investment, it might be a good idea to get a few of them now. Our current income's enough and it should be a guaranteed return...

"... Oh right, I was wondering, was Rokuko-chan's ring made by raising a jeweled turtle? By making an orichalcum ring first, then putting it on a ruby type's back. After growing for about a year, it might turn into an orichalcum ring encased in ruby? Then making it... by filing it down afterwards... perhaps. But still, you would need to pay careful attention so that no other impurities would make their way in, hmm... alright, let's use this method to have a dwarf start slowly making a ring that matches Rokuko-chan's..."

Haku-san started muttering as she thought about something, so let's check out the remaining rare result, the ammoknight.

Well, its official name as a monster is something like ammonite knight. First off, its size. Its shell is about the size of a coffee table. The shell has a whirlpool pattern and isn't soft on the eyes at all. As for what's inside the shell... there're a lot of tentacles moving about like a nautilus. It's pretty disgusting if you look up close. It glides around in the water with them. Its defense is pretty high, so this guy's pretty useful. And for the knight... eh, it's knight. It uses a sword and shield. It moves around underwater like a knight does on land. A pretty strong person. It'll get weaker when it goes onto land, but it's not as though it becomes completely immobile.

By the way, why were there so many things with tentacles this time? Sure, the tentacle slime and manga octopus can have them, but even the flying squid has them. [1]

... Ah, maybe Rokuko's desire for Tentacles/Goblins influenced it!?

No way, right?

Ah, the rest aren't monsters, but this is everything.

## **Potions**

- 28x Recovery Potion
- 35x Upper Class Recovery Potion
- 12x Mana Potion
- 14x Upper Class Mana Potion
- 4x Status Recovery Potion
- 1x Berserk Potion
- 1x Elixir

## **Scrolls**

- 3x Scroll of Slash
- 10x Scroll of Ice Bolt
- 4x Scroll of Lightning
- 1x Scroll of Grow Weed
- 1x Scroll of Create Golem
- 1x Scroll of Summon Gargoyle
- 1x Scroll of Storage
- 13x Scroll of Healing
- 1x Scroll of Area Heal

## **Miscellaneous**

- 1x Turtle Scrub Brush
- 1x Submersible Motor (Plastic Model Use)
- 4x Orichalcum Coin
- 1x School Swimsuit (Old Type: Deep Blue)
- 1x Bikini Armor
- 1x Fisher Shirt [2]

One hundred and forty in total.

... Why are there more [Upper Class Recovery Potions] than [Low Class Recovery Potions]? Moreover, is [Elixir] what I think it is? A full heal? It's some sort of ointment, heeeh~

For scrolls, thirteen [Scroll of Healing] appeared... they're worth 100,000 DP each. The superior [Scroll of Area Heal] came out too. There's even a [Scroll of Summon Gargoyle]. Seriously, too crazy.

As for the miscellaneous items, I don't get why we got stuff like submersible motor or the orichalcum coin. We have a motor with no battery now. And really, why did the old school swimsuit, bikini armor and fisher shirt come out? 1,000 DP gacha, are you trying to dress Rokuko up?

By the way, [Elixir] costs 300,000 DP each, [Scroll of Area Heal] costs 250,000 DP each. Just buying those two from the catalog would've cost us practically all of the DP we had to use this time. Even the [Orichalcum Coin] is 100,000 DP each. We have four.

... We got upwards of 2,000,000 DP in value from 150,000 DP. That's not on the level of 'positive earnings'! That's a cheat, a cheat! That's over 1000% in revenue!

If asked how much is going to be useful for this Dungeon Battle, I'd say not much—not. [Scroll of Summon Gargoyle] is awesome.

It looks like [Grow Weed] just takes magical power to grow weeds, but I could probably make it grow trees. I'd use it when I go back home so that Haku-san wouldn't see. I would just be [Carrying Over] timber, so it's alright.

I could even use the [Berserk Potion] on an enemy so they'd kill each other.

Furthermore, according to Haku-san, seeing the results—

"I wonder if she has a skill like Hero Wataru's [Super Luck]...?"

I also wondered something like that.

Rokuko's luck has to be from some sort of skill. Rather, please be from one.

Well, that Rokuko's enjoying herself by playing with the scrub brush.

"By the way, why are you so happy about that brush?"

"Eh? It matches that one Kehma bought a while back though? Aren't you happy?"

Well, even if they match, scrub brushes are a bit sensitive to talk about.

# Chapter 172 - Summon Gargoyle

“Heeey, Kehma. There’s already five floors dug out for the dungeon, we’re still going?”

“I’m planning on there being about ten floors for this.”

“Uwaah, using 50,000 DP on just that, what a luxury.”

Using the submerged gimmick, the deeper the better. Even the vertical height of one floor it quite long.

We used 200,000 DP on the gacha and 50,000 DP on floors. The remaining 250,000 DP will be for traps and monsters for each of the floors. Ah, can’t forget about offense either.

Because of that, let’s go with using 150,000 DP for developing the floors, 50,000 DP on preparing offensive troops in advance, and the final 50,000 DP on the day of.

... Ah, right. [Father] was the one who prepared the dummy core, but it was deducted from the limit. I’ll count that as floor development costs.

\*

Now then, leaving the dungeon to Rokuko and Meat, I temporarily returned to [Cave of Desires].

And I immediately took the scrolls that Rokuko got from the gacha, [Summon Gargoyle] and [Grow Weed], as well the extra [Ice Bolt] and [Healing] scrolls and learn them.

I decided to give [Healing] and [Ice Bolt] scrolls away to the four who take care of the inn to learn.

I recorded the incantations for [Summon Gargoyle] and [Grow Weed] with a golem and handed them to Nerune. She should be able to use them in the future.

... I can use [Summon Gargoyle] now, but let’s have Nerune keep researching gargoyles (magic golems). I can’t help but feel like she’s been making nothing but magic tools lately though... different from true gargoyles, maybe we should call them degraded gargoyles? It feels like we could just go back to calling them

magic golems though.

Well, let's give the incantation modifications a shot.

Here's how the basic incantations for each go.

- "Open a gate. Summon a stone monster that wields magic to do my bidding—[Summon Gargoyle]."
- "Oh seed, bud and grow—[Grow Weed]."
- "Oh icy projectile, pierce my enemy—[Ice Bolt]."
- "Oh light, heal this one's wounds—[Healing]."

So obviously, what I'm going to be looking into this time is [Summon Gargoyle] since I'm interested in it the most.

The part about it being a stone monster that wields magic is probably the key for gargoyle. Does that mean that I'll be able to summon other monsters by changing that part?

Let's give it a shot.

I'm in my room in the Village Chief's Mansion just in case.

"Open a gate. Summon an iron\* monster that wields magic to do my bidding—[Summon Gargoyle]!"

Vwoom.

A purple magic formation folded out in front of me.

... ..

But nothing came it. It just disappeared.

Huh? What happened? I thought that it would've summoned an Iron Gargoyle... let's try something else.

"Open a gate. Summon a Goblin to do my bidding—[Summon Gargoyle]."

A purple magic then appeared, followed by a single Goblin walking out of it.

"Gobu."

... A success. I was able to summon a Goblin.

No clue why I was able to summon a Goblin with [Summon Gargoyle] though.

"... Let's see, can I use you?"

When the Goblin heard me, it nodded. Looks like I can.

Let's try the next.

That is, if I speak the monster name directly, will Translation Function-san take care of the rest?

"Open a gate. Summon a Gargoyle to do my bidding—[Summon Gargoyle]."

The third purple magic formation appeared. Wonder what'll happen this time?

... A gargoyle appeared from the magic formation, landing on the floor.

I was able to summon a Gargoyle... I can feel a connection-like thing connecting my magical power to it. It feels bigger than the one for the Goblin, is that because it needs more magical power to maintain?

At any rate, it looked like I could have it do stuff too.

"I just got a crazy magic..."

With this, couldn't I summon any monster I know the name of?

Let's try summon something that isn't a monster.

"... Open a gate. Summon Ichika to do my bidding—[Summon Gargoyle]."

A purple magic formation unfolded before me—and I lost consciousness.

When I opened my eyes, my head was resting on Ichika's lap. The Goblin and Gargoyle weren't there.

I couldn't see her face since her chest was in the way, but these thighs are definitely Ichika's.

"... Eh?"

"Oh. Ya woke up, Goshujin-sama? What sorta weird thing'd ya do this time?"

"Hey, why are you calling it weird already...—ah, ow, what's with this headache!?"

It's a pain like what happens if you eat too much ice cream, an acute pain in the forehead. It's just that it's like three times as bad. This hurts like crazy. The heck...

Ichika gently patted my head... ah, she's soothing me. [1]

"Goshujin-sama, weren't ya practicin' magic here? That's obviously it."

"... A-ah... So this is magical power exhaustion?"

"Magical power exhaustion... so ya heard about fainting after using too many



magic skills but not the part about a headache? ... Well, a violet magic formation appeared under my feet a bit ago for some reason.”

“Ah, that was just me trying to summon you with [Summon Gargoyle].”

“Goshujin-sama!? I’m not a Gargoyle though!? That’s why ya fainted.”

“It worked with a Goblin just before it though.”

“Even though it’s [Summon Gargoyle]!?”

... I wonder if it’s just harder to try and summon a human? Maybe it didn’t work since I didn’t have a magic stone? It might also be something like what happens when you divide by zero in a program and get an error. Or maybe it was because I specified a certain individual?

In any case, it’s probably a good thing that the magic skill got interrupted. My head might’ve popped if I had [Blackout Resistance] on... Scary.

This headache is too bad to verify it. It’s almost to the point that I want to seal [Summon Gargoyle].

Maybe I should at least have experimented a bit slower.

“Huh? Come to think of it, why are you here, Ichika? The summon should’ve failed.”

“I came in through the door like normal. Ummm, I got some info about Goshujin-sama from the magic formation? I was enterin’ the magic formation, but it disappeared midway for some reason, so I came to check it out since it felt like something bad happened. Goshujin-sama didn’t respond even after I knocked, so I wondered if ya were sleepin’ but ya were definitely doing magic experiments right? So when I came in, Goshujin-sama was here on the floor.”

Apparently, the Goblin and the Gargoyle had returned when I fainted. It’s a good thing that they disappeared as well instead of having just the enslavement go away, I would’ve been attacked when I fainted.

“What was that about info about me?”

“Ah, how should I say it... a feeling like whether or not to resist the person? I more or less got that it was Goshujin-sama doing it though, so I wasn’t going to resist...”

Come to think of it, I wasn’t able to summon the Iron Gargoyle when I tried summoning it with that incantation for some reason. Maybe that was because it was resisting me?

... Uuumu, nothing but more questions now...

Well, I got a headache, so I decided to just enjoy Ichika's lap pillow for a while longer.

# Chapter 173 - Checking on the Village

I'd tried out [Summon Gargoyle].

What about the other magics though? [Healing] for example.

"Oh light, cure my headache—[Healing]."

A faint light covered my head... Ah, it worked.

"Goshujin-sama? Wouldn't it've been better to use that earlier?"

"Yeah, probably. I keep forgetting to use it since I'm not that used to it... I should rely on magic more."

"Don't ya already? I also forget to use 'em though."

Just one. I've only been using [Create Golem]~

Looks like there's no problem with my magical power now, so let's resume the investigation!

Putting aside [Ice Bolt] since it's an offensive-type magic, let's look at [Grow Weed].

Frankly, magic that helps out daily life are more useful to alter.

I went to the garden with Ichika.

"Oh tomatoes, grow and bear fruit—[Grow Weed]!"

I changed the incantation so much that it doesn't even look like a prototype, but the tomatoes grew, bloomed flowers, and bore fruit... it was fertilized instantly? I thought about it for a sec but decided to not worry about it.

I took one of the fresh red tomatoes that sprouted and tried taking a bite.

"... .. Bleck!"

It's a tomato, but the texture's like it's dried out. The taste is super thin too. It's like eating sand.

They look like perfectly edible tomatoes though...

"It's no good. It'd only be usable for emergency food."

"Ehhh, let me try too, Goshujin-sama... .. aah, it's pretty bad."

"Sure it's not the worst?"

“Goshujin-sama. There’s still a lot worse than this out there y’know?”

The food-experienced Ichika’s pretty convincing when it comes to food.

“Ah, you can eat the rest.”

“... Seriously? With my mouth?”

“Mm? What do you mean? They’re tomatoes.”

I had Ichika eat the no-good tomatoes for now and moved on to the next trial. Tomatoes might’ve turned out bad since they’re fruit. What about vegetables though?

“Oh cabbage, grow—[Grow Weed].”

A good-looking cabbage popped up from using [Grow Weed].

... I peeled off two or three leaves that looked edible from the outside of it and popped one in my mouth.

Biting into it—ah, amazing. It’s paper. I’m eating paper. I’m a human shredder. I might even be a goat!

“[Grow Weed] is a no-go for vegetables too. Gross.”

“Unfortunate~”

“Well, Ichika can take care of the rest...”

“Seriously? ... With my mouth?”

“It’s just a vegetable, you can do it. I’ll give you some curry bread later.”

“... Understood, I forgive you!”

What’re you forgiving?

“Well, it’s not like I’m saying to just go and eat it all is! You could go and have Kinue-san season it you know? You could even try seeing if curry powder makes it any better.”

“Would’ve been great if you said that sooner! I ate another tomato...”

“Ichika’s strong point is that you don’t waste food. Seriously, you’re a good woman.”

“If that’s the case, I’d be happy if Goshujin-sama helped dealing with the cabbage too. A full one’s a bit much yeah?”

It couldn’t be helped, so I decided to help out. I gave the paper-like cabbage to Kinue-san... it was unexpectedly edible when she seasoned it, I was surprised.

I decided to ask Kinue-san for her opinion while she's here.

"[Grow Weed]... it's a magic that seems like it would be good for grooming a lawn. Wouldn't it be useful if it was used for something other than eating? Hiding pathways with grass, for example."

"Hoh, that's a good idea. Let's go with that."

A room full of ivy with so much grass that you couldn't make it through without having to push your way through the grass, that might be a good idea. For an underwater room, I could use stuff like brown seaweed or kelp. Fufufu, I didn't expect Kinue-san to be such a good tactician.

"Ah, come to think of it, I haven't seen Rei around... did something happen?"  
"Rei is off duty right now, I believe she's considering how to use the 50,000 DP she was given charge of from master by searching through the catalog."

She still hasn't used it? Well, it'll be her first subordinate after all. It's fine if she takes her time thinking about it—wait, hold up. We're absent because of the Dungeon Battle, that DP was to use for replenishing the lack of personnel. Why hasn't she used it yet?

"... Is the inn alright? For staffing I mean."  
"Yes, it's alright. There is no need for master to worry about it."  
"If you're sure, alright then. I'll believe you and leave it to you all. And tell Rei to use that DP soon."  
"Certainly."

She said they're alright, but I'm a bit uneasy wondering if they're really alright... Well, I did leave it to them, so let's not say too much about it. It's alright as long as nothing happens with the dungeon.

"Is stuff other than the inn going well? Are there any problems that can't be dealt with without the village chief?"  
"The village sub-chief has the permission to give the OK on anything other than the inn and the Dyne Firm that's responsible for fund management has been doing well, so there are no problems. Regarding land reclamation and the highway's development, they are progressing smoothly as a public works project by cooperating with the Adventurer Guild."  
"... Umm, what? Reclamation? There are more people here?"

“Yes, the dungeon’s domain has been extended according to the plan of development as well.”

“Ah, okay.”

Come to think of it, I did give them the authority to use the menu didn’t I? So there are more people here now... our DP income increased. It was a bit late to ask, but when I asked if there were any problems with waste management, she just responded by saying that it was alright so long as they could put it in the dungeon to disappear by itself. Now that you mention it, that’s right huh. Trash, even corpses, are just food to a dungeon. Having a dungeon attached to a human village is like having a perfect waste management system.

Even though I’m not really doing anything, it looks like there aren’t any issues. If I had to say something, it’d be me worrying about whether or not we’re standing out from getting a bit too large or something. For any problems concerning food problems, there are [Jellies] loitered about inside the dungeon for emergencies, but even then, there’s plenty of flour stored in the first place. ... If there are more people here now, maybe it’s a good idea to add more Iron Golem Spawners?

“How should I say this... um, I’m glad to have such excellent subordinates.”  
“Thank you for the compliment, master.”

Now then, guess it’s about time I focus on the Dungeon Battle. Let’s make a ton of Blade Golems.

# Chapter 174 - The Day Before the Dungeon Battle

The day before the Dungeon Battle.

Finally completing the dungeon, tomorrow is the day of the Dungeon Battle. So today we're having a meal that's also serving as a Dungeon Battle Send-Off Party... in short, it turned into an animated banquet.

"Well then, I pray for your victory in your Dungeon Battle starting tomorrow —kanpai!" [1]

"" Kanpai~! ""

Everyone raised their cups after Misha's leading cheer.

From our [Cave of Desires], there's me, Rokuko, Meat, and Ichika. From Haku-san's [White Labyrinth], there's Haku-san, Chloe-san, Misha, Dolche-san, Amelia-san, and Sally-san participating.

I just met Sally-san for the first time today, but she's another member of Haku-san's party and was the only one to not participate for this Dungeon Battle.

She's a Living Armor Onee-san, but right now she has a body since she used humanization for the meal.

Normally, she's a strong person that serves as the First Chivalric Order's leader... Rather, this country, it really is in Haku-san's hand huh. Well, the first conversation we had went like this.

"How about we have a bout next time? Ah, a serious one of course."

"I politely refuse. I avoid fights that I can on principle."

"So then, how about we have a bout next time? I'll make it an unavoidable one."

"... Isn't that just a threat at that point?"

After that, I somehow managed to dodge the date by talking about how weak I am. It was decided that Meat and Ichika would be having a mock battle with her some time in the future, but I don't have a problem with it.

I poured some more apple juice into my cup after emptying it from the toast.  
... Eh? Why isn't it alcohol?

I have a Dungeon Battle tomorrow morning ya know? Who'd want to do that with a hangover? Our staff are all banned from alcohol.

Why on the day before? Trying to sabotage?

Honestly, Haku-san is absolutely good with me losing. That way she'd be all, "Uhahaha," and get her hands on Rokuko because of the [Guidance Rights].

Rokuko and Haku-san walked over to me when I started eating some roasted chicken.

"Hey Kehma, try this, it's delicious!"

"Oh? Some kind of fried rice huh? Yep, it's good."

"Fufu, this is the imperial capital's castle after all. All of the ingredients here are of the finest class and the chefs can cook them to perfection. It is natural that the food will be delicious... Right, chef that has received the training of Hero Ishidaka, renowned as the Food God, as a direct disciple was pleased that some secret recipes could be reproduced through using the [Rice] we received the over day. This [Fried Rice] is one of the reproductions."

Ishidaka, wasn't that the original name I used for making Ichika's name? I'd heard that he was a god of food and seas, but to think he was a hero huh. By the way, the origin of him being called the sea god is that he taught the art of cooking fish and a much superior salt manufacturing technique. There's also a legend that he healed sailors that got a strange disease from sailing with lemons. Ah, he really is like a sea god. [2]

He was probably a Cooking Cheat Hero-sama.

As I was thinking about stuff like that, Haku-san talked to me.

"Now, Kehma-san. Did you decide what to name the dungeon?"

"Eh, it's my decision? If I just decided on whatever I... oh, right. I'm in charge of it, huh."

"Yes. It should reflect Kehma-san's view on it. Do you have any ideas?"

"... Well, taking Haku-san's dungeon names as an example, it'd be fine as [White Beach] or something right? This dungeon has no desire-based elements to it after all."

"Oh, that's a wonderful name. Then... Misha, are you ready?"



“Yes! Understood~!”

Misha responded energetically. Her face is red and she’s already drunk... is that alright?

“Eeeh~? It’s alriiight, I’m nyaaat drunk~”

“All drunks say that.”

“Weeeell I’m gonna drink nyaow~, nyaaan~” [3]

“Aren’t you already...?”

“Kshhh~, I got caught~... But Kehma-san~? Why’m I the only one you treat so unseriously~?”

“Well, it’s because you sleep a lot, it feels kind of familiar. Saying it is a bit embarrassing.”

“Oh oh~? Are you making moves on me? We can sleep together after this if you want~? We won’t be sleeping though~”

“No, let me sleep. I have an important match tomorrow, so please get away—oi!”

Misha clung to me as though twining around me. Man she’s strong, I can’t get her off!

“Hey—Misha! Get away from Kehma, he’s my partner!”

“Nyaha, nyahaha~! Just kidding~, Rokuko-sama’s so a~do~ri~ble~♪ Heeey, Kehma-san, kiss me~, kiss~”

“This girl’s a super bad drunk...”

I used my hands to protect my lips from Misha while looking to Haku-san for help.

... Ah, not good. She won’t help me! Right now she’s hugging Rokuko in delight! Eh, Misha!? Stop licking my hands, it’s ticklish! The roughness hurts a little!?

“Hey Misha, let go of Kehma-sama.”

“Amelia~♪ Can I nibble~? Can I nibble on your tail~?”

“No... Sorry Kehma, this girl always gets like this when she gets some alcohol in her.”

Squeezing between me and Misha with her lamia snake tail (legs), Amelia-san dexterously pulled her off of me. Phew, I’m saved.

I thought that, but—

“As an apology, would you be my partner? It’s alright, I’m gentle.”

“Ah, Amel-san, are you drunk? You’re drunk, aren’t you?”

“Here, doesn’t my tail just feel nice and cool?”

Amelia-san wrapped her scale-covered tail (legs) around me, pressing her soft twins against me to tempt me.

... Her nice and cool tail (legs) cooled my head down a bit. I know, this is a honey trap. I mean, Haku-san’s been grinning since a while ago whispering stuff like, “Don’t you have faith in Kehma-san? If so, it’s alright.” Rokuko’s been watching me rather pointedly and believing in me with a, “Gununu...”

If I don’t do something with how things are going right now, I’ll be in tatters before I even see the morning, let alone the match.

“Amelia-san, could you please separate from me?”

“Ohhh, how cold. Even though I’ve seen you giving my tail such passionate gazes...”

“Next is my turn? Amelia’s turn is over~”

It feels like they aren’t trying to hide it anymore. Next is Dolche-san, the Wraith. Oi, does that mean that Chloe-san and Sally-san are coming after?

“Even though I don’t have legs since I’m a Wraith... what do you think?”

“Outside of my strike zone. Please come back after humanizing.”

“Waaah, how refreshing, like being purified... Alright, next is Sally.”

No motivation!? No, that’s actually a help though.

“A knight of the empire wouldn’t use such an underhanded trick as seduction! Therefore! !! Pass!”

“Aah~. Sally has a boyfriend huh. Oh well then.”

“W-w-wha, t-that’s not true!”

“Oh~? Is that so? Sally, how distant of you. Please tell me, who is it?”

“Haku-sama, I have sworn to be a lifelong knight of the empire. I would not get caught up in something like love.”

“Well then, isn’t there a possibility that the imperial knight leader will be caught in a honey trap? Not investigating their identity is no good, you know?”

“Plume isn’t like that!”

“Heeh, so it’s Plume? Isn’t that the marriage swindler wanted internationally?”

“That’s a fabricated crime!”

Haku-san laughed happily. Good, Sally-san looks to be alright. [ 4]  
Next is... eh? Chloe-san isn’t here?

“Oh? Where did Chloe go off to? Going with this order, Chloe should be the closer. Did she run away?”

“Maybe. She is fully devoted to Haku-sama after all.”

If that’s the case, I’m saved. Phew.

“Then now’s my turn to seduce him~! Goshujin-sama~”

“Oi Ichika. This is an order, go eat some food.”

“Don’t have to tell me twice~. Ah, Rokuko-sama’s, there’s melon ya know? Want me to get some?”

“Yes please.”

Phew, everyone should be repelled now right? Are you satisfied now, Haku-san? Sexual harassment won’t work on me, see?

Haku-san looked at me with a smile.

“Then as a reward, I will serve you some alcohol. Is an ale fine?”

“I-I’ll pass. There’s the thing tomorrow, so alcohol is a bit...”

“Hoh? You won’t drink my alcohol...?”

The final barrier was power abuse.

I gave in. Geh...

# Chapter 175 - Extra: Meat and the Banquet

After Kehma was honey trapped by the imperial capital big shots (Haku's party members), Ichika, who had nonchalantly joined in, turned back to the food-laden banquet table with bouncy steps. No matter what, she would have to dine from now on due to her Goshujin-sama's order. She didn't dislike it. Rather, she was super enjoying it.

"Oh, Meat-senpai."

"Nom."

She called out to Meat, who was nomming on a piece of meat. With a large bite, Meat swallowed down the meat. After that, she wiped off the sauce left around her mouth with a handkerchief she'd gotten from her Goshujin-sama and turned to Ichika.

"What's wrong, Ichika? Is there something especially delicious?"

"Mmm, there's lots of tasty stuff but Goshujin-sama is being popular over there."

"Goshujin-sama, popular?"

Fufun.

Meat pushed out her chest in pride. It was Kehma. A master's honor is a slave's honor.

"Well, he refused 'em all though."

"Really? It is Goshujin-sama after all."

"Meat-senpai isn't going to try? Goshujin-sama might be taken away by some other person~?"

At any rate, since Meat was being used as his hug pillow and how he hadn't reacted when Ichika made a move on him, she wasn't worried in the least. It wasn't a threat to the role that Ichika played after all.

However, Meat didn't look flustered either.

"I am Goshujin-sama's hug pillow, so I will continue doing my all to be Goshujin-sama's favorite. If the time comes that Goshujin-sama doesn't need

me, then I will just have to do my best at that time.”

“Hoh, so this’s a genuine slave?”

But I can kinda understand why you adore Goshujin-sama so much~—Ichika thought to herself.

No matter how one were to look at it, Kehma was the ideal Goshujin-sama. He gave them meals, the meals were delicious, he didn’t use violence, the curry bread was the best in the world, he made no unreasonable demands, but really, that curry bread. That curry bread was too strong. The world’s best.

“Wish I was Goshujin-sama’s hug pillow too. Don’t you nibble on Goshujin-sama when you’re with him?”

“... Just play-biting, else, wouldn’t he get mad? You shouldn’t wake him up when he’s sleeping, after all.”

“Hooh, really? Heeh~”

Ichika picked up some food to eat and took a bite... it was great! Even if these were casually cooked dishes, they were things made for a banquet held by the head of an empire (Haku) by the top chefs with the best ingredients. There’s no way they could be unpleasant. In other words, it’d be a waste if there were much of it left over. It’d probably become food for the servants, but she couldn’t let that happen.

“It’s normal to store it in [Storage].”

“I don’t know [Storage] though! Meat-senpai, put it in yours!”

“If you don’t have permission from Goshujin-sama or Rokuko-sama for my [Storage], no.”

“But... what should I do theeeeeeeen!?”

Meat was a little amazed at how seriously Ichika looked like she was mourning.

“Haah, it can’t be helped then can it, Ichika? ... I’ll teach you right now.”

“Ah—now’s the time for my talent in magic to bloom...! Teach me, Meat-senpai!”

“The incantation for [Storage] is—”

However, even though she was taught the incantation for [Storage] by Meat, there was no way she’d be able to use something she hadn’t been able to this

whole time so conveniently.

“There’s no helping it if you can’t. You should just eat what you can, then.”

“No way... then I’ll just have to rely on the space magic in my stomach...!”

“Oh? Ichika, if you’re saying you want to go home with the leftovers, I could put them in my [Storage] for you?”

Rokuko, who was concerned over Kehma until just a moment ago, suddenly cut into their conversation.

“You were a goddess!? I’ll follow you for my whole life!”

“O-oh, it is a great meal, but I don’t think it’s enough to be treated like a goddess over...”

“Food grudges last a lifetime, but so do food debts y’know~?”

“Do they really? Well, if you say it’s alright, then okay...”

Rokuko put one of the big platters sitting in front of her into her [Storage] for now.

Ichika wondered if it was really alright to take the platters as well, but decided there wasn’t much of a need to worry about it since it was Rokuko.

“... Oh? Come to think of it, where’s Goshujin-sama?”

“Oh, right. Kehma fell asleep after Haku Ane-sama got him drunk. Meat, could you carry him to his room? You know the place.”

“Yes, certainly!”

When she looked over to the spot Rokuko pointed to, she saw the red-faced Kehma laying on the floor, asleep.

There was a fluffy carpet, but he would probably end up catching a cold if he was left there.

“I’m off to bring Goshujin-sama to the futon, then.”

“Yeah, I’ll leave it to you!”

Thanks to the golem assist, Meat was able to easily carry Kehma as she left the banquet.

“... Oh? Didn’t this turn into a huge win for Meat-senpai though? It’s a bit late, but Rokuko-sama, are you sure about lettin’ Meat-senpai do it?”

“Eh? Meat’s a hug pillow, there’s no need to worry... So, you’re not going to

eat?”

“Ah—I’m eating, I’m eating! I have my eye on that dessert too~, wanna have some together?”

Ichika wondered what was up with her line of thinking, tilting her head. But for now, she decided to just focus on eating what was sitting in front of her.